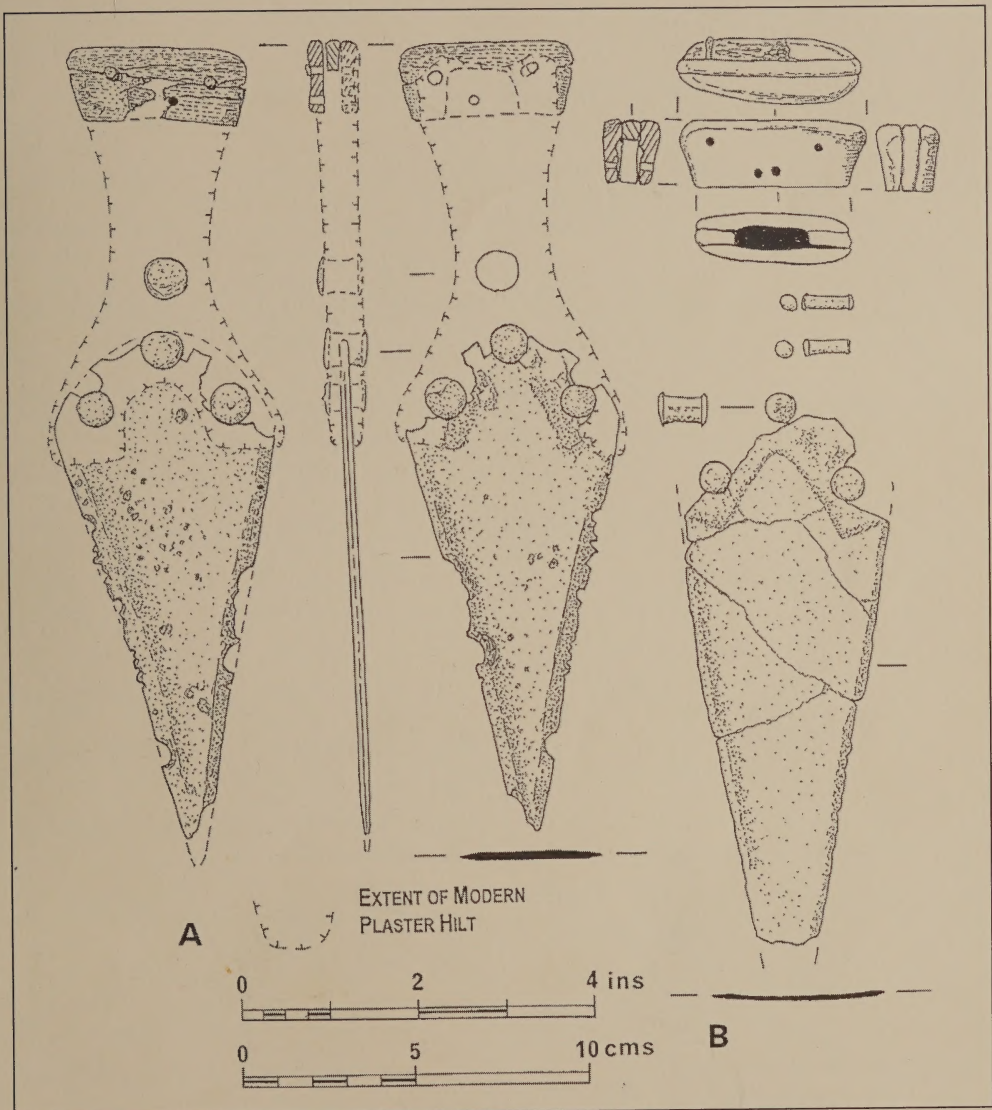


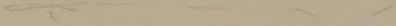
The Ryedale Historian

Number 24

2008 - 2009



*Helmsley Archaeological Society
and Historical Society*



*Cover illustration: The Lockton Warren Dagger blade and pommel.
by T. G. Manby.*

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A Periodical Publication by the
Helmsley Archaeological and
Historical Society

	Contents	Page
Editorial		2
	A Celebration of the Life of Kitty Hart (1925 - 2006)	4
	Dr Isabel Anne McLean (1943 - 2006)	5
Tony Wright	The Water from the Moors Continuation Project	7
Edward Freedman	Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group: An Update	8
Madge Allison	Murder at Little Hamley, Appleton-le-Moors	9
Barbara Hickman	The Sheriff Hutton Deer Park	16
T. G. Manby	The Mitchelson Collection and an Early Bronze Age Dagger from Lockton Warren: A Question of Antiquarian History and Assumption	20
Jonathan Allison	An Iron Age Roundhouse at the Ryedale Folk Museum	31
Ed Dennison	An Archaeological Survey of Cawthorn Woods, Cawthorn, North Yorkshire	37
	Reviews	
Basil Wharton	The River Derwent in North Yorkshire	44
Terence Boyle	John Henry's Walk: A Journey from Clapham to Scarborough in 1875	46
Professor Miles Taylor	The People's Laird: A life of Robert Bontine Cunninghame Graham 1852 - 1936	47
Dr Angela Ovenston	Lockton - People and Places	50
	Recent Publications	51

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Editorial

Once again the editor would like to express her sincere thanks to all the contributors to *The Ryedale Historian* No: 24 especially to John Dean for all his efforts in compiling the tribute to Dr Isabel Anne McLean. Further thanks are expressed by the Society to the North York Moors National Park for their financial support towards the publication of this issue.

Determination, enthusiasm, energy, friendship and a passion for knowledge are some of the qualities that have been used to describe Society members both past and present. Such qualities are particularly associated with Kitty Hart (1925 - 2006) and Dr Isabel Anne McLean (1943 - 2006).

Kitty and her husband Norman joined the Society in 1978. Kitty was an active supporter of the Society. She was appointed Society Librarian in 1996, a post she held until 2004. She was for many years involved in the distribution of the *Historian*, and she was also a committee member from 1999 to 2005 until she had to resign due to ill health. Many of Kitty's friends have described her as 'a whirlwind' of energy; she was a tireless and selfless worker being involved on many committees. *A Celebration of the Life of Kitty Hart* by her sister Mrs Anne Bond reveals Kitty's many interests and passions beyond that of the Society, for which she will be fondly remembered.

Dr Isabel Anne McLean was also an active member of the Society, writing many contributions for the *Historian*, though it is her publication *Water from the Moors: The Life and Works of Joseph Foord* for which Isabel is most associated.¹ On reading Isabel's work one is immediately aware of her precise attention to detail. The professional and personal tributes which follow are a celebration of Isabel's generous and enquiring nature and her many friendships.

It is fitting that the first contribution *The Water from the Moors Continuation Project* by Tony Wright is as the title suggests a continuation of Isabel's research. Whilst the main aim of the project is to locate, survey and record the present state of preservation of the water races, it is to be above all enjoyable. Anyone wishing to become involved can contact Tony Wright via the Society.

Historian No: 23 reported the affiliation of the Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group (RVBMRG).² The Group's co-ordinator, Edward Freedman, updates the Society on the Group's activities over the past year.

'Acts of murder' in today's society have a tendency to be over sensationalised by the media. However in *Murder at Little Hamley, Appleton-le-Moors* Madge Allison's account sensitively researches how a tragic act of murder was handled with dignity and compassion within a local community. Utilising oral and documentary evidence, this contribution reveals the strength of social bonds in a small community in the early 19th century.

In this issue the *Historian* has two complimentary contributions on woodland management. By exploring past land use, Barbara Hickman's *The Sheriff Hutton Deer Park* explores not only their ecological and historical importance, but also the

urgent need for protective legislation concerning these ancient components of the British landscape. The second, *An Iron Age Roundhouse at the Ryedale Folk Museum* by Jonathan Allison, demonstrates the sophistication of woodland management coupled with experimental archaeology. Starting with the woodland growth cycle, this case-study guides the reader through the process of selection to reconstruction. What both contributions highlight is the “longstanding nature of the human relationship with the woodland environment” (Bowden 1999, 134). It is a relationship which we neglect, even abuse at our peril.

“Diggers or desecrators?” is the question posed by Marsden (1999, 72). But whatever today’s opinions concerning the activities of 19th century barrow diggers, they recovered vast amounts of material culture which form the basis of many museum collections. *The Mitchelson Collection and an Early Bronze Age Dagger from Lockton Warren: A Question of Antiquarian History and Assumption* by T. G. Manby is a comprehensive account which re-exams an Early Bronze Age dagger and the Collection with which it is associated. As the author comments it is hoped that this will generate interest beyond that of the archaeological community to that of local family and social historians. The need is for further documentary research regarding named individuals and the Collections origins and location.

Antiquarian (see pages 20, 22) and archaeological interest have long been associated with the locality of ‘Cawthorn’, in particular that of the Roman military complex of ‘Cawthorn Camps’.³ However it is military activity of the 20th century located just to the south of ‘Cawthorn Camps’ which is the focus of Ed Dennison’s *An Archaeological Survey of Cawthorn Woods, Cawthorn, North Yorkshire*. By surveying extant earthworks forms, a complex relationship of landscape features of this locality, as a whole, is discussed.

From journeys of exploration to the life and exploits of colourful individuals it is hoped that readers will find the review section of interest.

Carol Colbourne

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that the appropriate references and acknowledgments are correct prior to publication. Any omissions or errors are apologised for in advance.

Notes:

¹ See Anne Taylor’s review ‘Water from the Moors: The Life and Works of Joseph Foord’ in *The Ryedale Historian* No: 23 (2006 – 2007), 40 – 41.

² See Richard Myerscough’s ‘Ryedale Vernacular Buildings Materials Research Group’ in *The Ryedale Historian* No: 23 (2006 – 2007), 6 – 13.

³ See Graham Lee’s ‘Cawthorn Roman Military Complex: An Update’ in *The Ryedale Historian* No: 19 (1998 – 1999), 6 – 13; Pete Wilson and Graham Lee’s ‘Cawthorn Camps: Trial Excavations 1999’ in *The Ryedale Historian* No: 20 (2000 – 2001), 5 – 8; Pete Wilson & Graham Lee’s ‘Cawthorn Camps 2000: Interim Report’ in *The Ryedale Historian* No: 21 (2002 – 2004), 30 – 33.

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A Celebration of the Life of Kitty Hart (1925 - 2006)

Kitty, my sister was born in 1925, the second of four children of John and Elsie Taylerson. As I was not around at the time I cannot say much about her early life but I am told that, right from the start she was very strong-willed and always knew what she wanted. Like me, Kitty went to the Convent High School in Rochdale where the strict discipline provided the challenge that we both needed. She did very well at school, leaving at sixteen to work as a secretary at the local council office and later at the Manchester and Shaw branches of Barclays Bank.



When old enough at eighteen Kitty joined the Wrens, four years into World War II. She worked as a pay-writer and reached the rank of Petty Officer. She was mainly stationed at Great Malvern at H.M.S. Duke. As a child it struck me strange that there could be an H.M.S. in the middle of Worcestershire! After brief postings to Great Yarmouth and Colchester Kitty was in London and after the War worked at Barclays in London before being transferred to Shrewsbury as secretary to the Chairman of the Board at Barclays. During her time in Shrewsbury Kitty continued her interest in all things naval by joining the sailing-club at Ellesmere in Cheshire. This interest was also reflected in the Charities she supported: i.e. the King George's Fund for Sailors, the Lifeboats and the British Legion.

Kitty met Norman on a Norwegian cruise and they married in 1963. Married life began in Farnham Common, then Farnham Royal where Edward and Jeremy were born. Retirement and the move to Helmsley followed to allow the boys to attend Ampleforth without being too far away from home.

During her life Kitty has had to deal with cancer, arthritis and heart problems over several years. She dealt with illness with characteristic courage and cheerfulness.

Her legacy? - two fine sons and her grandchildren of whom she was so proud. If there is one word which I associate with Kitty it would be "loyalty". Loyalty to her country, her many friends with whom she corresponded in copious fashion, her Church and most of all, her family. May she rest in peace.

Mrs Anne Bond

Dr Isabel Anne McLean (1943 - 2006)

Throughout her life, Dr I. A. McLean (known as Anne to family and early friends, and as Isabel in her university teaching career and later friendships) was a passionate student, teacher and reader of literature. She studied English at the University of Hull, where she was proud to have welcomed J. R. R. Tolkien to the student Literary Society, and laughed in retrospect over a library fine dispute with the then University Librarian, Philip Larkin. She wrote her PhD on W. B. Yeats' early poems but her lifelong literary interests were far broader, encompassing Wordsworth, Coleridge, Herbert Read, R. S. Thomas, Sorley MacLean and Edith Wharton among others, as well as a voracious appetite for poetry. Above all, she was tenaciously thoughtful about relationships between literature and the natural world.

She taught very popular part-time literature classes for the Workers' Educational Association in Yorkshire over many years, and also for the Open University. I was privileged to enjoy a close friendship with her for more than 25 years, following our first meeting in 1980 as lecturers in the English Department at York St John University. While deeply valuing the great classics of English literature, she also embraced the contemporary with enthusiastic curiosity; at York St John her wide-ranging teaching contributions included the development of a new module in Indian and African fiction.



Dr Isabel McLean leading a discussion at the Wordsworth Poetry Day, North Yorkshire East Federation of the W.I. at Brompton-by-Sawdon.

Held on the 28th March 1984
Scarborough Evening News

Her active engagement with literature and the environment continued unabated after her early retirement from university teaching in the 1990s. Retirement allowed her more time to travel, exploring art and European culture, as well as maintaining her dearly valued Scottish family connections.

Isabel Anne is greatly missed by her many diverse friends, she had a generous and imaginative capacity for lasting friendship based on shared interests in culture, ecology, justice, art and travel. She enjoyed and valued good company and good conversation. In particular, she maintained warm dialogues with the young people she knew, encouraging their development into appreciative and thinking adults. A loyal and caring daughter, her long-lived parents predeceased her. She leaves her much-loved son Mark and daughter-in-law Juliet, and her brothers Mike and Ralph Pridmore in Australia.

Professor Gweno Williams
York St John University

Working on *Water from the Moors* with Isabel was a fascinating and informative experience. It was easy to get caught up in Isabel's passion for knowledge in the keen pursuit of the details of Foord's schemes and my own knowledge benefited a great deal as a result. Isabel's own interest in the water races developed from her prize winning (Yorkshire History Prize 1996) biography of Joseph Foord and his family. Research on the water races involved Isabel walking many miles along the (now usually dry) cuts, using early map editions for reference. Isabel's enthusiasm was contagious and she quickly developed excellent working relationships with many of the local farmers and landowners, both to hear and record their own recollections of the later history of the races and to gain access for first hand survey and recording.

The National Park Authority enters the story as the potential publisher of this important body of original research in the late 1990s. Publication is often a relatively slow and time-consuming process and took - in the case of this book - some six years from initial discussions to final production. I know that the slowness of the process caused Isabel some frustration, since she was hoping to present the completed work to her elderly parents, both of whom sadly passed away during the course of production. However, working with Isabel was always a pleasure and I was impressed with her distinctive style and "voice" in her writing. We carried out a number of interesting excursions to check details of the races, stimulating further debate and discovering in the process new lengths of race and some significant modifications. In Tripsdale, on the Rievaulx race, we noted where initial cuts had been made but were subsequently abandoned because they proved too low to facilitate flow and access for the water onto the Tabular Hills escarpment.

Two years after publication, I look back and feel honoured to have worked with Isabel and proud that the National Park Authority was able to publish such an important piece of original fieldwork and research. I kept in touch with Isabel until close to her death, which she appeared to face with an enviable calm and stoicism. Her loss, both as a great character and as a skilled local historian, is keenly felt.

Graham Lee
Senior Archaeological Conservation Officer
North York Moors National Park Authority

During the late 1990s I was one of several friends who enjoyed helping Isabel on long walks as she located and traced the surviving remains of Joseph Foord's water races on the North York Moors. The moorland terrain was always interesting, and often challenging; it could be rough, steep, boggy, or sometimes all these things together.

While not a scientist by training, Isabel had acquired a good understanding of basic geology and hydrology in the course of research for a biography of Joseph Foord, and in *Water from the Moors* she has produced a comprehensive study of work for which he is remembered locally. Her book will surely be of wider interest.

Isabel was always conscious of the beauty of the landscapes she was exploring, and I recall an occasion when we arrived at a viewpoint on the edge of the Bonfield Gill ravine. After a moment's thought she said "If ever I find myself a disembodied spirit,

I shall never be far from this place.” We sat down to eat midday sandwiches, and it seemed appropriate that we had in view two of Foord’s works, the Nawton and Pockley water races following contours at different levels on the opposite hillside.

Basil Wharton

The Water from the Moors Continuation Project

by Tony Wright

This project will work on from Isabel McLean’s publication *Water from the Moors* (NYMNPA, 2005). It is one of four projects which were discussed at a meeting between members of the Society and the CANDO team from the North York Moors National Park Authority on 13th of September 2007. The water races are still there: some are still running, some are blocked, some are partially eroded, washed away, ploughed out or built upon but all are worth recording in precise detail. Graham Lee has asked that we help in providing exact surveys of the races and recording their present state as well as keeping an eye on them in the future.

We have nine volunteers so far and I know that more will be forthcoming once they realise that the work will involve gentle walks over the moors, in fine, mainly winter, weather, taking notes, sketches and photographs. I hope that we will get to know the owners and tenants of the land over which the races pass, many of who already understand the value of these extraordinary man made rills, which enabled their forefathers to make a better living from their farms.

In April 2006, Basil Wharton guided a group of us along sections of the Rievaulx and Carlton races from Roppa Sands over Laskill Pasture. Since then several people have walked and recorded sections of other watercourses, so we have a head start on what promises to be a very pleasant continuing archaeological project. We have yet to learn in what form the NYMNPA will need the data. Members of the society will benefit from the training provided, as well as learning about the latest recording techniques and digital mapping.



Society President, Mr Robin Wardell next to a water smoot on the Carlton Race, close to New House Farm, April 2006.

Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group: An Update

by Edward Freedman

The Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group was formed in 2002 as a multi-disciplinary research forum to bring together groups, societies, institutions and individuals who have an interest in the vernacular and historic buildings of North and East Yorkshire, and in particular the building stones and source quarries. It currently has groups looking at church building stones, Brandsby slate ("roadstone"), Mowthorpe Quarries and Sherriff Hutton Castle, Hildenley limestone (quarries and buildings constructed from it) and village building surveys. All members are free to plan their own visits and publicize them on our email tree, or to join any of the meetings planned around the existing groups.

Over the past year, the Group has visited the Helmsley Archaeology Store, the York Handmade Brick Company at Alne and the medieval cellars of Malton. The first village survey was carried out in Brandsby, where a large number of Arts and Crafts houses by the architects Detmar Blow and Alfred Powell, with very distinctive random shaped stonework, were noted, as well as more traditionally "vernacular" buildings. The surveys are designed to make a brief record of the construction techniques, materials and styles distinctive to different areas, and to relate these to the underlying geology. No experience is required to survey and survey sheets can be provided to anyone wishing to make a record of their village to help build our resource.

Membership to the RVBMRG is free. Further information can be found on the RVBMRG's website <http://www.ryedale-buildings.org.uk/> or by contacting the co-ordinator, Edward Freedman, during office hours on 01439 770657.



Murder at Little Hamley, Appleton-le-Moors

by Madge Allison

I first came to live at Hamley in 1971. Soon after moving in, I was told a local story by Mr. Clemmit, who had lived in the village all his life. He had been the village postman and loved to tell a tale. He began by saying that I had come to live at Hamley, just opposite to "Little Hamley"... He then told me that the chap there had cut his wife's throat and put her down the well. She had been carrying on with a commercial traveller. He finished with "we always call it 'Cutthroat'." He told the tale with gestures, practically as though he had seen it with his own eyes, or at least his father had.

I always wondered how true the story was and began looking back in the Parish Registers.¹ It was not until I got back to 1821 that I found an entry under Burials. It was for Elizabeth Thompson aged 43, of Little Hamley, and added in the margin "wilfully murdered by her husband, William Thompson. He was hanged at York." So the tale of murder was true, much earlier than anyone had thought, and handed down over six generations.

Was it possible to discover more? The recoverable evidence provided a haunting glimpse into village life in the early 19th century, a story of personal tragedy and the moving response within a small village. The events also captured in a microcosm a wider picture, of economic and social conditions of the time.

Background of William and Elizabeth

William Thompson was born in 1776 at Appleton Mill. He was the son of the miller, John Thompson. John Thompson is a good example of a person who was in the right place at the right time. He came to Appleton Mill in the early 1760s. At that time Appleton Mill was simply a mill with about two acres of land. The mill was surrounded by a large block of land, the Stinted Pasture for the village. The Pasture was held in common by the villagers. A few years later in 1767 the Pasture was enclosed, which meant it was divided up and allotted to private owners. It was a great opportunity for change. John Thompson benefited both in his own allocation of the newly enclosed land and in buying up adjoining allocations. He soon created a good size farm as well as operating the mill. He also entered into a comprehensive new building phase, including the present day Georgian farmhouse and its farm buildings, all Grade II Listed Buildings today. As well as miller and yeoman farmer, John was Churchwarden for the village in the days when the churchwarden was a significant pillar of local society, the chief official of the village. He was a man of energy and ability, but also perhaps a little over-ambitious. He over-borrowed. By the 1780s he had overreached himself in his undertakings and was declared a bankrupt in the High Court. However he recovered enough so that he was able to hold onto the smallholding of Little Hamley, as well as quite a bit of his land, all located along the lane down to Appleton Mill. He built a house and lived there at Little Hamley with his wife and son William, a weaver, until his death in 1803.

William then inherited the house, and as is often the case, the death of a parent is a trigger or catalyst for change. As head of the household, William was now free to marry. A year later in 1804 at the age of 28 he married Elizabeth Noble of Pickering.

Elizabeth came from what had been a fairly well off family. Her grandfather had had the Bleaching Mill in Pickering and some houses there. Her father was a farmer in Newtondale. Elizabeth's dowry had been two of her grandfather's houses in Pickering.

So William had married well. It is interesting to note that William, a miller's son, married Elizabeth, the granddaughter of a bleacher. It is the marriage of two families involved in milling. It follows a traditional pattern of marrying within your economic and social class, as well as keeping trade secrets within families. Like his father before him, William was also Churchwarden for Appleton. As a weaver William had chosen an occupation guaranteeing security and standing. The success of weaving in Appleton is demonstrated by the good 18th century houses built there by other weavers. These weavers were also often yeomen farmers, but they preferred to call themselves weavers. It conferred greater status and it is clear that in the 18th century weaving was the superior occupation. This was all about to change in the 19th century and William was on the cusp of this change.

By the early 19th century there were the beginnings of a serious decline in weaving and bleaching in this area; the industry was becoming mechanized and moving to the West Riding. This led to loss of livelihood in weaving and real hardship here in the moorland villages.

The first signs of hardship with William and Elizabeth were in 1810 when they sold Elizabeth's houses in Pickering. Then in 1813 he sold Little Hamley, but continued there as a tenant. Another sign of decline in the family relates to William's brother, Roger. Roger is described at first in the Parish Register as a weaver when he marries (1795) and on the death of his daughter (1808), but when he too is forced to sell his land a little later, he is thereafter described as a labourer. As a result of mechanization, weaving families lost their livelihood, status, and way of life.

The events of February - March 1821

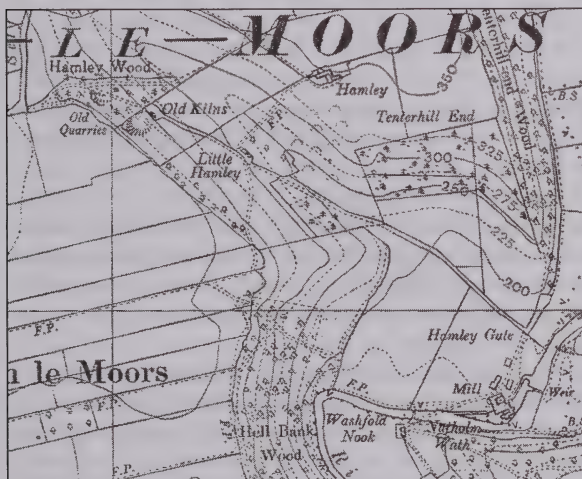
Little Hamley is located along the road down to Appleton Mill (Figure: 1). It is a fine sunny spot in summer. In winter it is a place that the sun does not reach and where the snow is the last to go. It was in that dark period of the year, on a February night, when William Thompson murdered his wife, Elizabeth.

The events of that night became much clearer only recently on the discovery of a newspaper account in the *York Courant* of March 1821 of the murder trial in the York Assizes.² The usual reporting of a murder trial in the newspaper was a single sentence, simply recording the crime, the criminal, and the sentence. In the case of William Thompson a very full report of a column and a half was reported. It may be that the reason for such interest, besides the nature of the crime and the tragedy of it, was due to the statements of the witnesses, which were fully reported. Further research at the Public Record Office produced the actual deposition statements of the witnesses and it is worthy of note that the newspaper reporting tallied very closely with them. The witnesses were reported in their own words and it is this language, of villagers living in a remote area, that is so rare to come across in the written records.

The first witness statement was by Elizabeth Dobson, the wife of a yeoman farmer, George Dobson, who lived at a farm called Hamley, located on a hill just opposite Little Hamley. Her testimony would have been valued, not just because it was clear and articulate, but also because of her standing in the community. Elizabeth was the granddaughter of Thomas Grundall, Appleton's principal landowner. It was his family who had bought up the St. Mary's Abbey estate in Appleton in 1585 and for 200 hundred years had been the main family in the village, living as yeoman farmers there. Elizabeth's father was the second largest landowner in the village and she herself had married into the Dobsons, one of the village's old farming families. The standing of her family would count for more in the village than any external authority, in an area remote from outside influences.



Figure: 1 Ordnance Survey 6" map (1914).
(see enlargement below)



Elizabeth states in her deposition that on Sunday morning whilst in bed with her husband about 5 o'clock a.m., she heard a distressful moaning noise under her window..., which at first was suspected to be the voice of an unfortunate maniac who had sometimes wandered from his confinement at Cropton (this is the earliest reference I have come across to the Cropton Madhouse). One may imagine a bleak dark

February morning. She says that no further footsteps could be heard nor any call beyond the sorrowful moans, on which her husband arose and looked out the front and back but could discover no one... then about 9 o'clock that same morning William Thompson came to the house and said "A bad misfortune has happened, our Betty's dead." George and Elizabeth Dobson then accompanied William Thompson to his house about 600 yards away and whilst crossing the fields William Thompson said "that she had done it herself with a razor." When they arrived at the house

Elizabeth Dobson went with William Thompson upstairs where she found Elizabeth Thompson laid across the bed covered with blood. William Thompson informed Elizabeth Dobson that his wife had been cleaning down the delf rack yesterday and had taken down the razor from it. Elizabeth Dobson said that she had long known the deceased and always regarded her as an exemplary character, as a cleanly industrious respectable woman with an even cheerful temper and never known any mental depression whatever.

It would seem that the Dobsons then took charge, sending to the village that same morning for Susan Hall and assistants who would do the laying out. Susan Hall was the next witness and she describes the state of the bedroom. There was the razor on the pillow, and the bedding and nightclothes soaked in blood, including nightcaps and waistcoats, and even a fustian white short cut coat and cotton corded breeches on the bed in the room adjoining, the lodging room.

The Dobsons also called out George's brother, Percival, that morning from the village. As the next witness Percival confirmed the above scene and that he assisted in the laying out. He describes how when he went downstairs he saw William Thompson still in his great coat without a shirt, sitting silently. George then "took a clean shirt which he aired before the fire" and helped William Thompson in putting it on between 10 and 11 on the morning.

Then the Dobsons went back across to their house with William. Very early the following Monday morning at about 3 a.m., Percival Thorpe, a labourer from the village, was brought out to William (Percival was probably related to William by marriage. He lived at Moorfields where he shared a joint tenancy with William's brother, Roger). When he arrived at that early hour Percival found George Dobson and his servant with William. William was praying on his knees, asking forgiveness and saying that he was a great sinner. Percival then stayed with William the rest of the night – William praying and saying there was no mercy for a murderer and recalling passages from scripture. Eventually Percival left him walking backwards and forwards in his shirt.

The next night Percival Thorpe was again called to William, who was now staying at the house of Thomas Field in the village. Again Percival stayed all night with him and finally William said "I murdered my wife with a razor." Percival then called others who were there in the house but William wished only to speak to him.

William then told Percival how there had been a difference between them about a lost parcel. She said that she had another thing to communicate to him, which he was not to be surprised at, - that was that she had lately gone with child. He turned upon her and said it was not to him; she declared it was. At the time she was cleaning a delf rack on which was an old razor; she took it in her hand. It then struck his mind to take his new razor, which he did from a drawer, and hid it in his breeches pocket. He took it to bed with him. When they had got to bed the difference kept up between them. He used her roughly with both hands; she said "Oh William, how am I to get this night over with you, if I get this over, how shall I get another. I have been with you all this time to bear every burden and I will bear this if you cast it upon me." The prisoner said that she reasoned very well with him. He took hold of her and pulled her to him. She came into his arms, as loving as ever she did in her life, and threw her

head back upon his shoulder. Having an opportunity, he took the razor, which he had hid, and pressed it into her throat. He said it were a pity he had not more government over himself.

The final witness was Robert Harrison, the surgeon from Kirkbymoorside, who had examined Elizabeth Thompson and gave details of the death. He was also the coroner who had taken the statements of the witnesses.

Finally the prisoner in his own defence said that it was a mystery to him; that he was not his own man; and he could give no account of it.

After a minute's consultation the Jury pronounced the verdict of guilty. The judge sentenced William Thompson to be executed the next Monday and his body to be delivered to the surgeons for dissection. He was hanged on the Knavesmire.³

In addition to the detailed newspaper account I was surprised to later find at the Public Record Office an important piece of information in the Assize Records.⁴ The records contained one further deposition statement, that of John Thompson, aged 7, son of William and Elizabeth. It was never printed in the newspaper, perhaps because there were reporting restrictions relating to children.

The young boy's statement says that he went to bed at about 8, and in the usual manner he slept between his father and mother, that when he awoke in the morning the bed was bloody, and he was told that his mother had cut herself. (The room would have been dark at that time of year and of course there were no lights). He said his father lifted him out of bed, took him downstairs and dressed him, and they went to the Dobsons.

John was placed under the custody of the village constable, William Otterburn, and nothing further was known of him. However recently Geoff Otterburn, (of the Ryedale Family History Group) has searched through the web sites of several family history research engines. He found a John Thompson, living in Scarborough, who had been born in 1813 "in Lastingham." The Lastingham Parish Register confirms that on the 29th Oct. 1813, John, the son of William and Elizabeth Thompson of Hamley, was baptized. Some further information about John can be gleaned from the Scarborough Census Returns of 1841-71 and from John's Marriage Certificate of 1843.⁵ John was a shoemaker living with his wife Ann. She was the daughter of William Ogle, a farmer of Hutton Bushell. The marriage certificate gives Ann's father but perhaps not surprisingly, it does not give John's father. They have two sons, William born in 1844, and John, born in 1850. Both boys are described as 'scholars' on the 1861 Census when they are 17 years and 12 years respectively.

Concluding Remarks

The events of the 19th-20th of February, 1821 give us a remarkable picture of a family crisis overtaking a remote early 19th century village. The picture shows how a small community responded to that tragic event. They did not send for the constabulary or magistrate of the area, or to the vicar or curate at Lastingham.

Instead village women were called in to attend to the laying out of Elizabeth Thompson. It was done in a self-contained dignified way. William Thompson himself was taken in and looked after by neighbours. Small details emerge of their care, warming his clothes by the fire, staying up with him through the night. The truth emerged over a period of days while in the care of families of the village. In particular, William's stay with the Dobsons and the status of Elizabeth Dobson would count for more in a rural area than the outside authorities. In an independent village the standing of an important local family would override other considerations.

Instead of calling in the curate from the parish church at Lastingham, a devout local man from the village came in. Percival Thorpe prayed and read Scripture with William and it was to Percival that William confessed. The calling in of a local lay person may suggest early Methodism in the village. Within a decade the village would build a Methodist Chapel by public subscription (the present Church of England would not be built until the 1860s by a single patroness, Mary Shepherd).

We shall probably never know for sure the full circumstances and motives of William's jealousy, or whether the jealousy was compounded by his own personal economic circumstances, or the depressions of a sunless cold winter. We have the witnesses' description of him on the morning as silent and numb, followed later by extreme agitation and remorse. In his own statement William gives a blameless picture of Elizabeth and places the full responsibility on himself. It is a tragedy and the village recognizes that this is so. A rare picture then emerges of how a small village handled the tragic murder, showing great care as they quietly cooperated among themselves. It is a very moving picture.

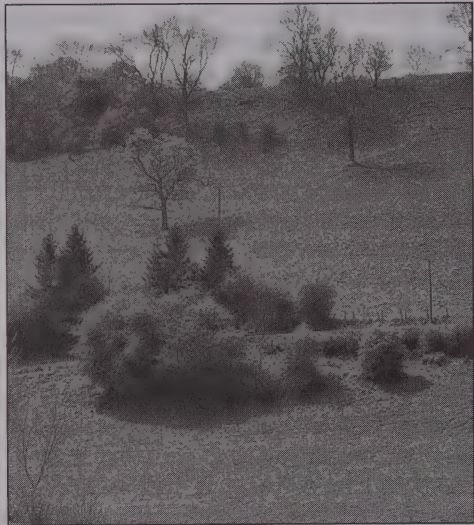


Plate: 1 Little Hamley trace footings,
nearside of farm road.

Later history of the house

Census Returns of 1841, 1851 and 1871 show that Little Hamley was occupied by agricultural workers and their families. Curiously the tenants in the 1870s were also named Thompson, but they were no relation. By the 1881 Census the house had ceased to be occupied and when John Shepherd sold it in 1909 he described it as "in ruins." The tracings of the footings of Little Hamley are still visible along the farm road down to Appleton Mill (Plate: 1).

As a young boy my husband was warned not to walk by the well below the house and he never did. Village children growing up as late as the 1970s were told not to go to the area and they did not. The events of 150 years earlier continued to have a strong

influence until very recent times. It is only changing now with the arrival of many new families.

Notes:

¹ **Preliminary Note:** The references to the Census Returns, Lastingham Parish Registers and Deeds are all from the North Yorkshire County Record Office (NYCRO), Northallerton.

² *York Courant*, York Public Reference Library, Museum Gardens, York; *Yorkshire Gazette*, Malton Library, Malton, North Yorkshire.

³ Following the sentencing of William, the judge subsequently made a most intriguing statement, which makes even more curious reading today. He says "... there is an absurd vulgar opinion still prevalent amongst the lower classes, that though a wife is usually executed for the murder of her husband, yet a husband is always permitted to escape punishment for the murder of his wife. We hope and trust the present sentence and execution will do away with this ignorant prejudice, and convince our females that they enjoy the same protection from the law as that sex to which by custom the administration of justice is exclusively committed." *Yorkshire Gazette*, 17th March, 1821.

⁴ PRO ASSI 45/54 and ASSI 44/136. National Archives, Kew, Richmond.

⁵ General Registry Office, Southport, Mersey.

The Sheriff Hutton Deer Park

by Barbara Hickman

It is the ruins of the huge medieval castle which draw the eye of those who pass through the village of Sheriff Hutton; the medieval deer park, lying to the south of the village, has become farmland, indistinguishable from much of the Vale of York. But because of the number and age of the many oak trees within the boundaries of the old park, it is a site of both historical and ecological importance (Plate: 1).

Medieval Hunting and Woodland Management

The Normans introduced hunting on a grand scale, principally for the nobility, and Royal Forests were established for this purpose after the Conquest; they also supplied venison for the royal table. Forest meant areas of woodland with open land, copses and individual trees, as well as farms and settlements; the New Forest is a good example. They were under Forest Law and access was restricted; trespass could be severely punished. The new Norman aristocracy were given land to build castles and have their own hunting areas, usually deer parks which were enclosed. The deer were managed within a pale, a boundary consisting of a ditch and bank surmounted by a wall or high fence generally made of oak stakes. The local villagers had rights, for example firebote - to take fuel, housebote - building materials, as well as controlled access such as pannage - letting pigs run through the woods in autumn, and berbiage - grazing sheep.



Plate: 1
Pasture wood in front of Hall.

By Roman times, over a half of the woods of lowland Britain had been felled, and by Domesday woodland cover would have been reduced to about 30% (today it is 10%). Most settlements had a wood which was carefully managed so that it provided the many essentials. Wood pasture, mature trees scattered through a grazing area was widespread; the animals had shelter and could vary their diet with leaves and nuts while the trees were part of the management. Medieval foresters distinguished between timber and wood, the former taken from the trunk and large branches provided beams and planks for large construction. Wood came from the smaller limbs and was used for fuel, making implements and smaller items. There were also processed products, for example charcoal - essential to iron and glass-making as well as giving a smoke free fuel; tannin for the leather trade and wood ash for soap-making and dyeing.

In order to have a continuous supply of all wood products, trees were coppiced or pollarded. Coppicing is where a tree is cut to ground level and from the stump, called a stool, grow many narrow stems, which could be used for poles, hurdles and laths. The cuts were made on rotations of between 7 and 15 years depending on the size of wood required. A coppice stool can last for centuries. Sometimes only one stem,

called a standard, was grown on to maturity, which ensured straight or curved growth. In pollarding, the tree is cut above the height reached by browsing animals, and a small number or maybe only one branch would be grown to maturity. Woods were divided into compartments or hag(g)s, each having trees and coppices of differing ages.

A Brief History of Sheriff Hutton, its Buildings and Park

Sheriff Hutton's first castle (12th century) at the east end of the village probably had a deer park to the north east. Ralph de Neville built his imposing castle in the 1330s and was given permission by the Crown to create a new deer park, enclosing land to the south including part of the disafforested (i.e. no longer under forest law) Royal Forest of Galtres. The park was principally for the hunting of red and fallow deer, but it would also have provided the huge amounts of timber and fuel needed to construct and service such a castle. The view from just under the castle facing south is extensive; you can imagine those watching the hunt waiting for the deer to be flushed out into the Lawnde or open space just below so that the huntsmen could make the kill in full view of the spectators. Then all would enter the main hall for feasting and entertainment.

The deer park was extended eastwards probably in the late 14th century, nearly doubling in size, and was further enlarged along the southern boundary, taking in the deserted village of East Lilling during Richard III's tenure of the castle, with further small additions over the next two centuries. The area of the park within the pale boundary covers about 750 acres or 300 hectares. The castle remained a royal possession through the Tudor period but was in decline.



Plate: 2
Hall with massive oaks.

The story of how Arthur Ingram, a London businessman and financier, became the owner of Sheriff Hutton Park is complex, but it was leased to him by James I in 1622. He built his impressive house in the centre of his estate in the next two years. A survey was made of the park by John Norden in 1624; he described it as being well stocked with deer but that the

majority of the oaks, some 4000, were in poor condition. If the trees had been part of the Forest of Galtres they would have already been well over 400 years old, if planted by the Nevilles, over 300 years old; and therefore deemed mature, by this time.

From the late 17th century the park surrounding the house was divided up and gradually became the farms we know today. Two wings of Ingram's house collapsed and the remaining section was given an 18th century facade. Many of the old trees remained, especially along hedge lines, but only if they did not inhibit farming. People who have lived in Sheriff Hutton for some time remember the destruction of many old oaks to the south east of the village in the 1980s. The area immediately around Sheriff Hutton Hall appears to be as it was when Ingram took possession that is a wood pasture with now massive, ancient oaks (Plate: 2).

The Oaks Today

The Pendunculate or English oak, *quercus robur*, is typical of lowland Britain and symbolised English character especially when our warships were of oak; we have more fine old oaks than anywhere else in Europe. They quickly put down strong tap roots which help support the huge weight of the crown and will grow tall and straight in plantation, however in parkland they develop breadth. In old age they lose the tops of their crowns but can begin to regenerate from the lower trunk. They are the penultimate tree to come into leaf (ash is last), and have a second flush of leaves in August. Oak trees support more wildlife than any other tree species; they are a complete ecosystem and are therefore important for the conservation of rare organisms.

They also have aesthetic qualities, trees with hollow trunks, curious shapes, twisted and dead branches, their tops blown out in a gale, hundreds of years old yet still living. They command respect and are frequently painted and photographed. It requires only a little imagination to envisage some of the scenes these trees have witnessed in their long lives.

An oak is said to grow for 300 years, has 300 years of maturity, and declines for a further 300 years. However coppicing and pollarding can extend a tree's life making estimations of age very difficult. It is possible to estimate the age of trees by measuring their girth at breast height, but factors such as local conditions, whether the tree grows in a wood or singly, or has been managed in the past, all affect the calculation. A tree with a girth of more than 4.5m has conservation value; if it exceeds 6.5m then it is classed as ancient.

To the south east of the Hall is the largest tree in the park with a girth of approximately 7.9m and which was estimated to be at least 650 and maybe over 700 years old; nearby is another over 4m. There are 18 oaks with girths between 4 and 6m in front of the Hall and one fallen giant. In the adjoining copse there is an oak stump which occasionally produces a very rare fungus only found on ancient oaks. Another 7 oaks, 3 over 4m, are found along the coach road and in the adjacent fields; some of these are visible from the main road. There are a few good specimens near the deserted village of East Lilling, and more along hedge lines.

Park Farm and Lodge Farm are ringed by some fine specimens, several over 4m; there is a pollarded ash at Lodge Farm with a girth of 4.3m. My favourite oaks are along the stream to the north east of the Hall, easily accessible from the public footpath leading eastwards from the village. They are not the oldest, but two have very particular shapes.

As the area around the Hall is private land it is difficult to see those trees but a public footpath crosses the Park from the church to the site of the medieval village of East Lilling, and another follows the old hedge line south from the village to the Coach Road, so with binoculars most of the trees can be seen. In this country we list and protect old buildings but we are only just beginning to realise what an extraordinary tree heritage we have. All old trees are vulnerable to severe weather conditions and the whims of landowners, and even though Sheriff Hutton Park has been assessed as one of the special sites in Europe, the trees have no statutory protection. Given that we are experiencing increasingly erratic weather, there is even more need to take measures to maintain the ecological complexity and historical importance of these ancient trees.

I would like to recommend the book *Within The Pale, the Story of Sheriff Hutton Park* to anyone who wants to learn more of the history, people and natural life of the park.

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The Mitchelson Collection and an Early Bronze Age Dagger from Lockton Warren: A Question of Antiquarian History and Assumption

by T. G. Manby

Introduction

The purpose of this note is to restore to the archaeological record of the North York Moors an item of Early Bronze Age prestigious metalwork by a consideration of its collection history and a recent re-examination of the object itself. This account is not intended to be solely an exercise in archaeological research. It is also hoped that it will attract the attention of local family and social historians to the search for any documentary evidence relating to the individuals and places connected with the discovery and preservation of a regionally significant archaeological collection.

Part 1: The Mitchelson Collection

In 1919, the Yorkshire Philosophical Society purchased from Mr. Thomas Mitchelson of Pickering, a collection of archaeological finds that had been on display in the family's private museum since the 1890s. This is described in *The Ryedale Guide: Pickering and Thornton* by E. E. Taylor (*Yorkshire Gazette* 1912, 15) under Pickering, as "The private Museum, near the Church steps, contains sufficient antiquarian remains to deserve a visit". Public access was "on an ask for the key basis". The museum collection is featured by Gordon Home in his town history (Home 1909, 45-47) with some Bronze Age pottery and other objects illustrated, but the museums origin and exact location are not well documented; its existence for some 30 or more years is only briefly detailed in other publications (Wade 1995, 131). A scarce undated later 19th century booklet, '*Pickering. Its history and traditions*' describes the museum as being "in a room near the churchyard belongs to T. Mitchelson Esq., who now uses it as a museum, in which is kept a collection of stuffed birds, British antiquities, & c.", (Info. J. Rushton). Amongst the antiquities would have been those that the *Malton Messenger* 8th March 1895 reported:- "Mr and Mrs Hudson of Low Hall have recently presented to Mr. Mitchelson a valuable collection of antiquities collected by the late T. M. Kendall Esq. Amongst these are old Urns, Chariot Wheels, Arrowheads and other interesting relics of olden times which have been added to Mr. Mitchelson's already interesting collection in his museum near the Shambles". The Shambles were at the eastern end of Pickering Market Place where there is a flight of steps up to the churchyard, but the present writer has not been able to determine the actual building in which the museum was housed.

The origin of Mr. and Mrs Hudson's gift is described in '*Pickering. Its history and traditions*', "The late Mr. Kendall of the Low Hall, Pickering had many ancient tumuli on the Pickering moors opened, as well as extensive excavations in and near Cawthorn Camps. He became the owner of a splendid collection of British arrowheads, hammer heads, sepulchral urns and other curiosities from which he discovered, amongst them a pair of chariot wheels which had belonged to a British war chariot. The only similar pair known in England are in the British Museum". Mrs George Hudson, of Low Hall, Pickering was Mary who was born in 1852, the

only daughter of Thomas Mitchelson Kendall; his collection would appear to have been housed at Low Hall down to this time.

The Mitchelson family, of Pickering, throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, were substantial landowners in various parishes adjacent to the town, particularly in Cropton, Middleton, Newton and Wrelton; and as befitting their social status they were magistrates and officers in the local volunteer forces. In the absence of a family history like that of many landed gentry, families are complicated by the same Christian names in each generation, and a surname change from Kendall to Mitchelson. Some of the family background can be constructed using the *The Victoria County History of Yorkshire: North Riding* (1923) Vol. II, the contemporary Yorkshire postal and trade directories and some memorials in Pickering parish church.

The last of the original Pickering Mitchelson family was Colonel Thomas Mitchelson (1771-1860), a J.P. and Deputy Lieutenant of the North Riding, Baine's *Directory* 1823, lists Col. Thomas Mitchelson, residing in Hungate. By 1840 he had two nephews resident in Pickering. East Ness is given as the birth place of both in the 1851 and 1861 census returns showing them to have been younger sons of the Kendall family of East Ness Hall (Eastmead 1824, 209) who had a small estate within Hovingham and Stonegrave parishes. In White's 1840 Yorkshire *East and North Ridings Directory* Thomas Kendall was living at The Hall, Burgate, (Burgate or Boroughgate, the northern half is now Castlegate, and the Hall was also known as the High Hall;) and in 1852 he appears as Thomas Mitchelson Kendall J.P., Pickering Hall, (Gill 1852, x). Also the 1840 *Directory* has James Kendall (Solicitor) residing with Thomas Mitchelson in Eastgate, and subsequent *Directories* and the 1851 Census have Thomas Kendall, at The Hall, Pickering, and Thomas Mitchelson and James Kendall, Attorney, residing together in Hungate.

On the death of Col. Thomas Mitchelson in 1860 the estate was left to nephew James Mitchelson Kendall who in accordance with the terms of the will secured a royal licence to change his name to Mitchelson and adopt the arms of Mitchelson (*Malton Gazette* 1861). At this time there was an exchange of residences, since the 1861 Census has Thomas Mitchelson Kendall, Landed Proprietor, living in Hungate, and James at The Hall in Burgate. James Mitchelson Mitchelson, J.P. (1817-1872) died in 1872; his eldest son who resided at Pickering Hall was James Mitchelson Mitchelson (1857-1915), who attained the rank of Major, 2nd Volunteer Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment. He was the discoverer of the Costa Beck 'Lake Dwelling' that he and his brother excavated in 1893 (Duncombe 1899; Home 1909; Elgee 1930, 183-184). The brother Thomas Mitchelson (born 1861), J.P., of The Mount, Pickering, can be identified with the museum 'in the room near the Church Steps', and its 1919 sale. It is not clear at what date the Mitchelson family museum was set up; were the Costa Beck discoveries its initial inspiration? What material other than the stuffed birds and Thomas Kendall's antiquities did it house? More research is required into the museum's origin.

The Hungate residence, the Low Hall, still remains, becoming in the 20th century The Forest and Vale Hotel; but Pickering Hall, Castlegate, following military occupation during and after the Second World War has been demolished and its grounds are occupied by the housing development of Norman Close and Rosamund Avenue.

Barrow Opening

During the middle decades of the 19th century the majority of round barrows surviving on the upland block of the North York Moors were subjected to "opening" by local antiquaries, whose backgrounds were amongst the landed gentry or clerical classes. Their quality of recording was commonly vague but the outcome was to secure any accompanying grave goods for their own collections or for local society museums, which still constitute a great body of artefactual evidence (Elgee 1930, 10-17; Smith 1994, 195). The activities and personal background of these 18th - 19th century antiquarians and barrow openers (Ashbee 1960, 17-23) are a part of the early history of archaeology. This is an increasing subject of research, which must extend beyond the early excavation literature into those sources usual to family and social history.

There is an archive record of the opening of a barrow close to Cawthorn Camps on the 21st August 1817 by Thomas Mitchelson, who was the local landowner (Smith 1994, 115). However barrow opening was undertaken on a more widespread scale during the middle decades of the 19th century by a nephew of Thomas Mitchelson - THOMAS MITCHELSON KENDALL (1805 - ?1878). The earliest reference to Thomas Kendall's barrow digging activities appears in the brief account of the 1851 barrow openings in Newburgh Park on the Howardian Hills (Gill 1852, 152-155). There is also the brief sentence "The tumuli of this vicinity (Pickering Hills) have been successfully explored by Mr. Kendall" (Phillips 1855, 221 fn.). The label find locations with the Mitchelson collection pottery indicates they were derived from parishes across the southern half of the North York Moors, from Ampleforth in the west to Robin Hood's Bay on the coast and north to Sleights. There are some more specific locations such as Fall Rigg and Cawthorn Camps; in the latter area a barrow dug about 1849 contained the ironwork of a "chariot burial" (Mortimer 1905, xlix). J. R. Mortimer states from an 1893 visit to the private museum in Pickering that from the barrow digging activities, "T. Kendall obtained 135 pottery vessels:- 27 cinerary urns, 29 incense cups, 77 Food Vessels and 2 Beakers (Mortimer 1905, lvii). By the 1860s William Greenwell considered Kendall had left no barrows around Pickering worthy of investigation (Greenwell 1865). There is no evidence that Kendall opened any barrows on the Yorkshire Wolds, but J. R. Mortimer noted "T. Kendall attended the opening", on July 10-13th 1865 of his Garton Slack Barrow 37 (Mortimer 1905, 210).

Thomas Kendall does not appear to have taken up membership of, or exhibited his finding, to any meetings of the contemporary regional societies such as the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, the Yorkshire Geological and Polytechnical Society, or the national societies such as the Archaeological Institute or the Archaeological Association.

After the purchase had been completed, the Mitchelson collection was transferred to the Society's Yorkshire Museum in the Museum Gardens, York, where it was displayed in the Ethnographic Gallery. Unfortunately, at some time before the collection's purchase, an accompanying manuscript catalogue had been lost, leaving the find details dependant on the 19th century hand-written labels. These were loose with the pottery vessels and stuck-on to the flint, stone and bronze artefacts.

Studying the Mitchelson collection during the 1920s Frank Elgee lists it as, “one hundred and thirty-five pots (a few of which are Anglian); eight jet ornaments including a necklace; twenty-one bronze implements (some from the East Riding); twelve large stone hammers; fourteen stone battle-axes and stone-hammers; numerous flint implements, including a dagger, and at least twenty-six stone axes, polished and unpolished, for when I last studied the collection I did not count those without data” (Elgee 1930, 13-14). The outcome of this study which he designated as one of the largest Neolithic and Bronze Age assemblages from the North York Moors was integrated into his two major syntheses (Elgee 1930; Elgee and Elgee 1933). No inventory had been prepared of the Mitchelson collection following its acquisition for the Yorkshire Museum and not until 1948 was it catalogued along with much of the museum’s extensive prehistory collection.

The scarcity of background detail for the Mitchelson collection barrow finds has long been recognised as a major handicap to its use in understanding the regional Bronze Age; such a large body of excavated material could never be assembled again by any modern programme of barrow excavation. Although there are so few published details of Thomas Kendall’s barrow digging activities appearing in the usual contemporary antiquarian literature, there is a need to search for possible contemporary accounts in other directions such as family archives for letters, diary entries, and illustrations, and in the local newspapers. That these can prove fruitful for accounts of 19th century discoveries has been demonstrated in recent decades by discovery of transcripts of Samuel Anderson’s barrow excavation notes amongst the 19th century correspondence archive of the Liverpool Museum (Manby 1995); of detailed reports of the Rev. James Robertson’s barrow excavations on the Howardian Hills in a local newspaper (Manby in prep.); there are also the water colour illustrations of now lost bronze items of the Roseberry Topping Hoard preserved amongst the library collections of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (Pearce 2006, 48-9, Figure: 1-4).

Part 2. The Lockton Warren Dagger

Amongst the Mitchelson collection is a bronze or copper alloy flat bladed riveted dagger with a bone pommel, held together by a modern reconstructed hilt. The fragile character of this dagger and pommel assemblage would support the contention that they were in origin an excavation find from the barrow opened by Thomas Kendall, that like others of this type would have originally accompanied an Early Bronze Age inhumation burial.

The Dagger: (Figure: 1) Yorkshire Museum, York, catalogue number 3/1948. Catalogue card prepared in 1948 by Dudley Waterman, then Keeper of Archaeology, records:- “Mitchelson Collection ... Entry from old label “Bronze Dagger Lockton Warren, Walkington”. Note “Restored in plaster 27th April 1947”.

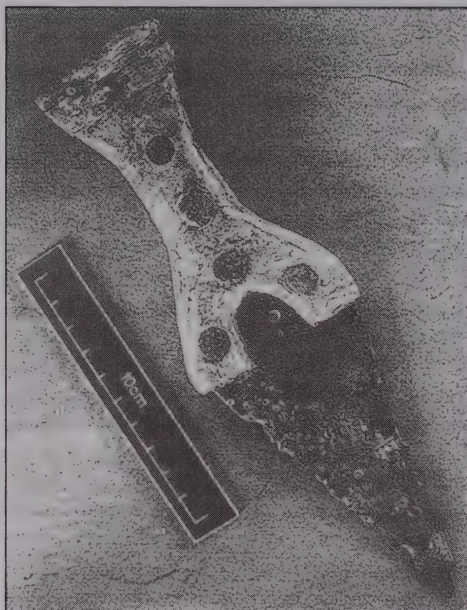


Figure: 1
The Lockton Warren Dagger with the
modern plaster restoration of a hilt.
(Photo: York Archaeological Trust)

Current Research: In 2004 the mounted up dagger was examined and drawn, and a new description prepared. Subsequently during 2005 arrangements were made for the blade and bone pommel set in the plaster hilt to be X-rayed at the Conservation Laboratory of the York Archaeological Trust (2004) to determine any of the features of the blade and pommel hidden by the modern plaster. A new illustration of the dagger (Figure: 2. A) has been produced utilising the X-ray evidence (Figure: 3) of the broken butt outline and recessed middle plate of the pommel.

Blade: Triangular, flat section, bevelled at the edges that are sharp, with point and small pieces missing from the edges caused by corrosion. Heel and the relationship with rivets are obscured within the plaster handle reconstruction, leaving only flattened round ends of the rivets exposed. The display surface of the blade is a mottle

of dark green over brown speckled with gold coloured metal, pitted by corrosion. A shiny surface appearance could be the result of a lacquer coating. The reverse face has a matte appearance, showing a considerable area of a powdery light green corrosion layer over brown metal and some corrosion pitting including one retaining a plug of dark green copper salts. There are also some small iron concretions on the blade surfaces, these and the powdery green condition, are all consistent with the blade having been chemically stripped of most of its former patination layer (corrosion products) with some reagent (such as citric acid). Length: 14.3 cm. based on X-ray; width 6.2 cm.; thickness 2.5 mm.

Rivets: Four, three set into the blade heel and one in the hand grip part of the 1947 plaster hilt reconstruction. The exposed rivet heads are light green, their expended tops flattish with a slight boss in the centre of one. Diameter of heads 11-12 mm. Length 12-13 mm.

Pommel: Three flat pieces of bone, splintered by horizontal cracking and surface erosion. The face plate retains some of its polished surface and pale green staining close to the bronze pins. Most of the rear piece is obscured by plaster, and the recessed centre portion of the central member is recognisable on the X-Ray. Extending through the thickness of all three pieces are two thin pins, each 13mm long, 3mm diameter that have oval hammer spread heads, they are in round perforations; there is a third perforation and possibly a fourth appearing on the edges of the broken out central section of the face piece.

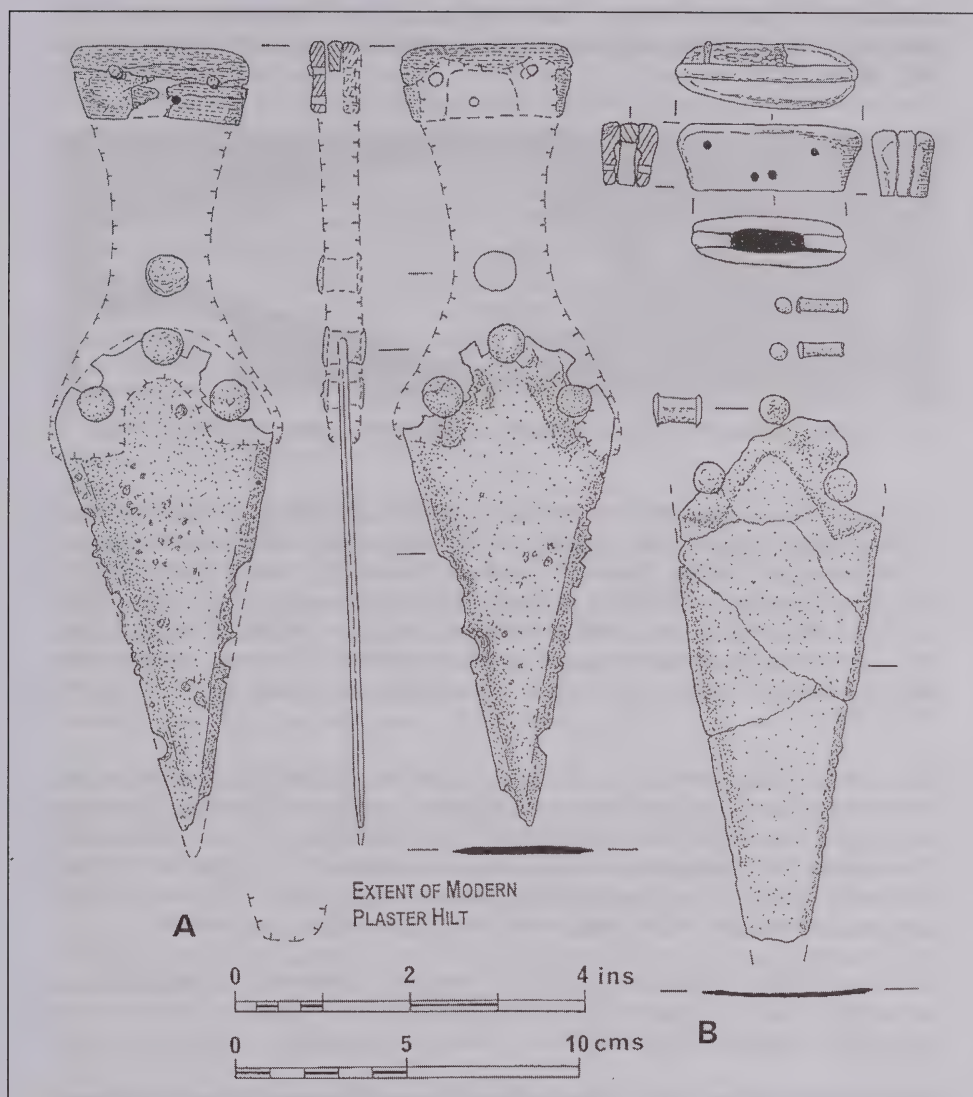


Figure: 2 A. The Lockton Warren Dagger blade and pommel. The heel outline is based on the X-Ray evidence; plaster cover areas of the heel and the pommel left un-stippled.
B. The Scamridge dagger blade, rivets and pommel.

Publication History: Significantly Frank Elgee, in his seminal study of the archaeology of North-east Yorkshire, makes no mention of the Lockton Warren dagger amongst the Early Bronze Ages axes and dagger finds from the North York Moors and the Vale of Pickering (Elgee 1930, 78-80, Figure: 29). The last word on the Lockton Warren dagger's original label information of "Walkington" had resulted in an assumption that this refers to the parish in which this dagger assemblage had been recovered; hence it is under this parish name that in the Elgee's later Yorkshire

archaeological gazetteer there is the entry under the East Riding section of:-
 "WALKINGTON: Triangular bronze dagger and bone hilt [Y.M.]" (Elgee and Elgee 1933, 243).

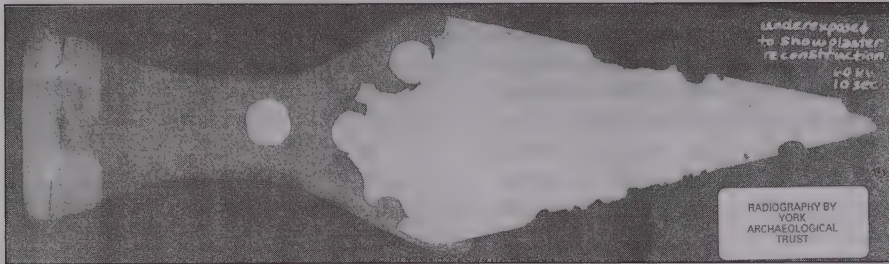


Figure: 3 X-Ray of the Lockton Warren Dagger. (York Archaeological Trust)

The dagger and its bone pommel received a definitive description and illustration in Sabina Gerloff's corpus study of Early Bronze Age daggers under the designation:-
 "Walkington, East Riding, Yorkshire. Lockton Warren", (Gerloff 1975, 59, No. 78; Pl. 7, 78). Described as having a triangular blade and three plug rivets, two set into rivet holes and the third into a notch in the blade heel, a V or W hiltmark probably left by a horn mounting, fitted with a carved bone pommel. On these characteristics Gerloff assigns this dagger to her Type Masterton group (Gerloff 1975, 58-63, No. 70-86, Pl. 7-8).

The pommel is illustrated in the R. Hardaker corpus of Early Bronze Age dagger pommels as from "Lockton Warren, Walkington (*sic*), near Pickering, Yorkshire (now in York (*sic*) Museum) unpublished" (Hardaker 1974, 19, No. 21, Figure: 5). The Lockton Warren dagger blade and pommel as illustrated by S. Pierpoint showing the blade complete with a rounded heel (Pierpoint 1980, Figure: 7. 7), is an idealised depiction and not based on an actual exposure of the plaster covered portion.

More recently the 'Walkington' attribution was also responsible for the absence of this dagger from Don Spratt's survey of the Early Bronze Age metal finds from the North York Moors block (Spratt 1990, 87, Table 18, Figure: 37).

Walkington is an East Riding village and parish, some 30 miles (45 km.) southeast of Pickering, on the southern Wolds, west of Beverley, where there is a total absence of anything resembling "Lockton Warren" as a place name in this parish (1st Edition 6 inch OS. Map Sheet 210, 1851). However, due north of Lockton village there is a Lockton Warren, 6 miles north of Pickering, now represented by the farm of Warren House (SE 849/910), that during the 18th - 19th centuries was one of a series of rabbit warrens operating along the higher parts of the Tabular Hills between Pickering and Scarborough (Harris and Spratt 1991, 180). There is only a limited history of this farm being used as a warren other than it was established before the end of the 18th century and appears to have been turned over to farming during the first half of the 19th century.

Consultation of the later 19th century directories for the North Riding of Yorkshire confirms that 'Walkington' was a family name in Lockton parish throughout the latter half of the 19th century. The *1861 Census* has an entry for Lockton parish of 'Lockton Warren, George Walkington, farmer of 380 acres'; also the *1871 Census* return under Lockton of a George Walkington (twice) and a William Walkington. Later on Bulmer's 1890 *Yorkshire Directory*... there is "George Walkington, Farmer, Lockton Warren". At present the precise date when the Walkington family came to Lockton has yet to be established, but it was after the 1851 Census; and the younger members of the family's place of birth indicates Pocklington as their previous place of livelihood. There were no longer any Walkingtons at Lockton Warren according to the 1901 Census, so this family's occupation lies in a period c.1855 to c.1895. However, the date of the dagger's recovery can be placed before 1877, as Greenwell, when describing the bone pommel associated with the dagger assemblage from his Helperthorpe Barrow 49, discusses similar finds including those from the (North York) Moors and refers to "one ... in possession of Mr. Kendall of Pickering" (Greenwell 1877, 207, fn.1).

Early Bronze Age pottery and jet ornaments from Lockton in the Mitchelson collection demonstrates it was amongst the local parishes where Thomas Kendall carried out his barrow digging activities. Lockton Warren lies within an area of the parish where scattered round barrows survived outside the improved agricultural enclosed land; notably East Toft Howe (SE 848/912) marked on first edition OS map and on later maps down to 1950s as a large prominent barrow in the field north of Warren House. However its mound has become completely levelled by arable farming and nothing was to be seen of it in the field in 2006.

It should not require any special pleading, after the above reconciliation of the two names provided by the labelling attached to this bronze dagger, to recognise that its find location was Lockton Warren, the farm name, and Walkington was the family name of the occupants. It is a continuing Yorkshire common practise for farms to be known by a family designation as well as the historic place name. Unfortunately experience shows that once a mis-placed provenance has entered archaeological literature it will continue to be perpetuated regardless of any published evidence for its correction!

Regional Context and Dating

Early Bronze Age burials accompanied by metal daggers are a distinctive association class, 'Dagger Graves' usually inhumations, are represented in a small numbers in the various regional barrow concentrations across Great Britain: the flat riveted bladed types are geographically the most widely distributed (Gerloff 1975, 41-69). The designated types are based on blade pattern, rivet arrangement and shape on the blade of the hilt attachment; in distribution the types have some broad regional biases. Gerloff assigns the Lockton blade to her Type Masterton group (Gerloff 1975, 58-63, No. 70-86, Pl. 7-8), that are characterised by a triangular blade and three plug rivets, two set into rivet holes and the third into a notch in the blade heel, the outline of V or W-shaped hilt marks left by an organic hand grip, probably of horn, that terminated in the bone pommel. In a recent reassessment of the flat blade daggers, which omits the Gerloff Type variants, Stuart Needham has included within a Class E, most of Type Masterton finds and further demonstrated their markedly 'Northern' distribution

confined to Scotland, eastern Yorkshire and the Peak District (Needham 2004, 226, Illus. 19.10). Flat riveted dagger types accompanied a select number of burials amongst the eastern Yorkshire barrow concentrations on the both the Wolds and North York Moors (Manby et al 2003, 61-62); where in contrast to the examples of the tongue-shaped blades types, the central widely distributed Type Butterwick /Needham Class A-B and southern distributed Type Milston/Needham Class C-D (Needham 2004, 226, Figure: 19.11), the Type Masterton triangular blades are now only represented by single example from the Wolds – Helperthorpe (Gerloff 1975, 59, No. 79, Pl. 7). The Lockton Warren find increases to two the Type Masterton daggers from the North York Moors block and both come from sites on the Tabular Hills. The second example came from a barrow opened in 1851 by James Ruddock, some 10 kilometres southeast of Lockton Warren at Scamridge, but listed as Pickering by Gerloff (1975, 59, No. 76, Pl. 7). The blade (Figure: 2 B) has been badly crushed, it has three plug rivets but the shape of the heel is unknown; the plates of the hand grip would have been held together by the preserved pair of two peg rivets, and the three pieces of the bone pommel (Hardaker 1974, 19-20, No. 22) are better preserved than the Lockton Warren example and closely parallel its construction.

The Scamridge dagger accompanied an inhumation like the other flat bladed bronze dagger associations recorded from North-east Yorkshire (Spratt 1990, 87, Figure: 37): on the Tabular Hills the small Type Butterwick blade, with omega-shaped hilt marks, Ruddock found in a barrow at Cawthorn (Gerloff 1975, 42, No. 55, Pl. 5); on the coast, a blade with a single piece pommel accompanied the famous Gristhorpe Tree Trunk coffin (Gerloff 1975, 51, No. 55, Pl. 5; Hardaker 1974, 10, No. 6). Loose Howe the boat-coffin burial on the central moorland watershed had a corroded blade lacking point and heel (Gerloff 1975, 52, No. 53, Pl. 5) that is of uncertain type. The associations of the flat-sectioned riveted dagger blades in burial associations would indicate the various types were contemporary and fall within the Bronze Age Period 2 - 2300-2050 cal. BC (Needham 1996, 127-130).

A Postscript

James Ruddock (1813–1859) was another Pickering based barrow opener and antiquarian collector; a contemporary of Thomas Kendall, but of a very different social background. Ruddock was a taxidermist based in Pickering Market Place until moving his business in 1856 to Whitby (Manby 1995, 96-98). Ruddock's own barrow digging began in 1849 a year before he opened correspondence with the Derbyshire antiquary Thomas Bateman (1821-1861), who went on to purchased Ruddock's finds and published his barrow opening accounts with his own (Bateman 1861, 204-241). The finds from their combined digging and collecting activities were displayed in Bateman's private museum at Lomberdale House, and passed after his death to Sheffield City Museum (Howarth 1899, iii). There is an interesting question still to be explored: what was the relationship between Thomas Kendall and James Ruddock? There is no mention of the former in the Ruddock letters to Bateman (Sheffield City Museum Bateman archives). The local directories and the 1851 and 1861 census returns show the Ruddock family were tailors and drapers in Burgate, Pickering and were also tenants of Col. Thomas Mitchelson (Info. J. Rushton). Some of the barrows James Ruddock opened, such as Cawthorn, would have been on Mitchelson property. Did Ruddock gain his initial experience in barrow opening and of archaeological finds whilst working for Thomas Kendall during the 1840s? Did he

also dig barrows for Thomas Kendall during the years 1850-1856 when he was supplying Bateman? As the local taxidermist Ruddock could equally have been a likely source for the stuffed bird collection displayed in the Mitchelson museum, the fate of the birds in the 1919 transaction is unknown.

Acknowledgements

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An Iron Age Roundhouse at the Ryedale Folk Museum

by Jonathan Allison

“Antiquities, or remnants of history are, like a plank from a shipwreck, they are found where industrious persons, by an exact and scrupulous diligence and observation, out of monuments, names, words, proverbs, traditions, private records and evidences, fragments of stories, passages of books ... and the like, do save and recover them somewhat from the deluge of time”

This was Francis Bacon in the *Advancement of Learning* 1605, inaugurating in England a new approach to history based on evidence. In this case the plank found floating, rescued from the deluge of time, was retrieved by Dominic Powesland at West Heslerton and given to Kevin Simms at the Ryedale Folk Museum. It is a layout plan, constructed from postholes, entitled “Site 1K. Period 5. Circular Structures.” This was to be the plank from which, in vintage Ryedale Museum style, with the robust confidence of its founder Bert Frank, Kevin Simms and Andrew Baird were to erect the reconstructed iron age roundhouse; they were assisted by groups of volunteers and Community Service teams, and constantly supervised and criticized by museum visitors.

Iron age roundhouse reconstructions are not new. There are examples in Northumberland, Hampshire, Wales and Ireland. However, since I was asked to provide the coppice wood, I have followed the construction process and so was in a position to make deductions, however tenuous, about iron age construction contracts and woodland management.

When asked exactly what was wanted in terms of length, thickness and quantity, Kevin replied “Anything you’ve got over two foot length. If it’s too thick we will split it. Oh, and I shall want some straight ash poles, over 25’ and 7 down to 3 inch diameter or thereabouts.” The main requirement was for hazel coppice. I shall use metres and feet promiscuously to reflect the age, disposition and flexibility of the partners to this contract, though I know it is not a practice approved of in the Puritan Handbook.

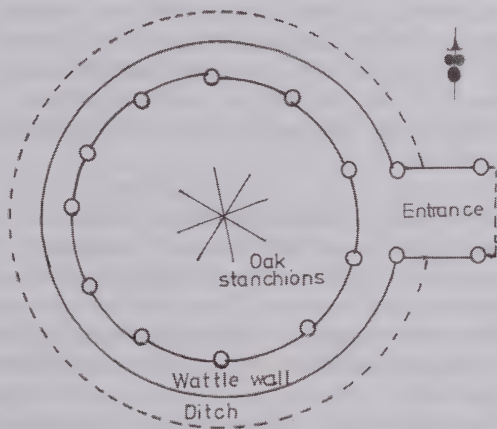


Figure: 1 Roundhouse Plan Form.

Once you examine the diagrammatic layout Figure: 1, and elevations Plate: 1 for the Roundhouse, deduced from Dominic Powesland’s ‘plank’, the great importance of coppice woodland in iron age construction contracts becomes apparent. Indeed it would seem reasonable to deduce that woodland coppice management was practiced at quite a sophisticated level, even if there was no evidence from other sources. Though iron age construction contracts were unquestionably rather basic compared to

our own, it is quite possible that their woodland coppice management was more sophisticated since we have virtually lost the knowledge and skills associated with coppice in the last hundred and fifty years.

The Ryedale Roundhouse is a major dwelling for an owner of substance. Many were smaller, a few were larger. This construction consists of a circle of eleven oak stanchions set within a 7.2m diameter, which provides the load bearing element; everything else is primarily held up and balanced by this circle (Figure: 1). Since these stanchions are over 9" diameter, I am inclined to designate these as timber rather than coppice pole wood.



Plate: 1 Outer skeleton structure and wattle wall.

The outer circle is formed by a curtain wall of wattle and daub, made up with hazel pole uprights with hazel wattlings interwoven horizontally between them. This is an insulation and enclosing structure and not a load bearing element. In some parts of the country this curtain wall would have been in stone and might have included a load bearing facility. Outside the curtain wall is a shallow ditch which serves the purpose of draining the roof water away from the inner area (Plate: 1). The daub mix used was 75% clay and 25% soil with a little straw. A lime wash has been used on the inner skin to lighten the interior for which there was no evidence, but lime was available.

To the East is a substantial entrance feature 2.25m in width by 2.5m in depth and four oak stanchions, a formidable and imposing structure making as definite a statement about the owners as any mock Georgian portico and more imposing than the average modern entry featurette. There was some feverish controversy on site as to whether the eastern entrance orientation was sensible. However it was undoubtedly authentic in this case and that is how it has been constructed.

The roof carrying spars consist of 23 ash poles, their length carried over the curtain hazel wattle and daub wall and down onto a padstone (Plate: 1). They rest on the oak stanchions and are locked together in a web formation using oak and coppice pole wood. The interlocking is achieved with square oak pegs made on site and lashed with flax rope. There is no central pole and no smoke hole for the roof. It had at first been thought that a smoke hole was essential for the fire smoke. However experience from the south of England was examined to the effect that if it was felt necessary to provide a smoke hole we could confidently look forward to the consequent explosion as the stream of oxygen in the upward draft, with a spark, ignited the gases accumulating in the roof space.¹ On the other hand if the museum was willing to

benefit from such experience and the smoke hole was omitted, then the gases would filter slowly through the thatch at the top without the stimulation of oxygen in the updraft; furthermore the gases seeping through the roof would keep it sterile and mightily discourage bugs and insects.

Once the structure was in place it was ready for a professional thatcher to apply 5 to 7 foot water reeds. The end result is a vegetable pyramid, a must-have dwelling for the organic enthusiast, a truly sustainable dwelling in the sense that all the elements are biodegradable, easily replaced, and rapidly renewed by regenerative processes.

When a contract is received at Appleton Mill for coppice wood products, the selection of the coppice site is determined by the principal requirements as well as the woodland management growth cycle, that is, what needs doing this year. As late as the end of the 18th century John Tuke writing about the North Riding, remarked: "Spring wood, from its age, is of course small, but serves for many purposes of husbandry and country use. Some in going over their woods about every twenty years, raise a constant succession of timber, by leaving each time a certain number of the most likely young trees on each acre, and a certain number of every preceding thinning." He goes on to say: "Woods under the best management practised in this country, are held to pay very well on any soil; in many instances, from 12s to 15s per acre, where the land, though capable of cultivation, would not be worth as much if cultivated; and that rent will be produced on many of the steep and rocky hillsides in the Moorlands, which, if not covered with timber, would be of no value at all."

This must be judged in the context of what John Tuke had to say about big timber: "Large full grown timber is now become very scarce, and the Surveyor is unable to mention many estates on which more than a few such trees can be found, except those of C. S. Duncombe Esq. and Lord Carlisle. Within the memory of man, full grown timber abounded in many parts of the district under survey."

Because of the value of coppice woodland it had to have been carefully managed. In this part of the country hazel, ash and oak provided the bulk of the value. Oak, because it is slow growing, had to have been nurtured through several coppice cycles, bearing in mind that the length of cycle varied a great deal depending on soil depth, elevation, slope, aspect and rainfall. Competition between oak and ash would also have varied since oak is highly responsive to temperature and ash to light.

The 1543 Statute of Woods or Act for the Preservation of Woods, which was compulsory and applied to all woods under Henry the Eighth's jurisdiction stated: "... that in all woods, commonly called coppice woods or underwoods ... that shall be felled at 24 years growth or under, there shall be left standing...for every acre of wood felled, 12 standils or storsers of oak ... and if insufficient oak then elm, ash, asp or beech which are likely to prove and to be timber trees."

This standard of 12 standils of oak per acre has often been used subsequently as "best practice" for coppice wood management, but in reality it would have depended entirely on what the woodsman had at his disposal on site and how the best were distributed. To get young oaks through the lower canopy would have required at least two short coppice cycles to remove the competing hazel, of the order of seven years

each: these are exactly the right conditions for getting young whippy hazel shoots suitable for the interweaving requirements of wattle and daub curtain walling.

The 1543 Statute of Woods also provided instructions for keeping the newly coppiced area enclosed to keep out stock and deer. A minimum of 4 years enclosure was required for coppices worked on a 14 year rotation or under, a period subsequently increased by the 1570 Statute of Woods. It can be no surprise to a practical woodsman that the 4 year period was found to be too short. If deer eat the young hazel shoots the stumps then fork so that it becomes harder to produce quickly the long straight stems that are the most valuable.

The museum requirements for hazel appeared to lack discrimination, so a wood slope was selected containing hazel of different ages as well as some previously managed stools. Cut and thrown to the bottom of the hill the result was a messy assembly of complex piles of coppice poles, some more than 3" diameter. It is the normal practice with coppice woodland to sort the poles on site into its constituent parts. For instance, long straight thin hazels for wattles (or bean poles), thicker poles of various lengths, hazel tops for binding into faggots, and residue for logs, firewood or charcoal. The objective is to use everything and leave nothing on the woodland floor. It is this management which, at its best, produces the rich flora of the ancient woodlands, and which is usually economically impractical to reproduce in the present day. This process of sorting the wood meticulously into its possible component uses has the effect in modern terms of 'adding value', but more important for the iron age woodsman, it makes it easier to transport.

The first tractor and long trailer load, hazels projecting far beyond the trailer tail, set off for the museum in December, including all the pieces where we said "they'll never be able to use that." The same day, in grim conditions, the 3'6" pits were being dug for the circle of oak stanchions by Glen and his Community Service detail, a remarkably cheerful and resilient group. Later the flooded pits were ladled out and bottomed with cobbles and clay. On delivering the second load the following week the first load had been fully sorted with virtually no waste and a use assigned to everything. Furthermore an exquisite hen house and poultry enclosure, complete with roof, had been constructed entirely of hazel wattle by Andrew Baird - a fine art work of great skill and complexity, as well as a rebuke by the museum for the customary vacuous annual circus of the Turner Prize.

The way in which the museum sorted and used all the hazel helps us to understand how iron age and medieval people would have worked. Some of the wood was also cleaved using iron and wood wedges. It was noticeable, and surprising to me, how useful were the thinnest of the hazel withies, the most flexible. The modern criticism of wattle fencing, that it has a limited life, of less than five years, would have been irrelevant in iron age circumstances - partly because they lacked modern alternatives, but mostly because it was easily renewable, and due to their skills, quickly renewable. Furthermore the decayed fence would then make excellent kindling for cooking. The wattle and daub curtain wall is protected from decay by the overhanging reed thatch and by the drainage ditch and so has a very extended life.

The requirement for ash poles of 25' and above and not more than 7"/8" thickness was not straight forward. In order to grow straight to this length and thickness the ash

need to grow close together and not be over thinned or coppiced over a considerable period of time. The young woodland selected was partially thinned 25 years ago and was in its infancy 15 to 20 years before that on an east facing slope. This type of wood would also have been very useful, had it been required, for scaffolding poles in the construction of large high value buildings as well as for roof spars and purlins. It seems reasonable to deduce a management system that allowed this type of pole wood to be produced and protected. Like the hazel the ash poles were not prepared in the wood. This was done in the museum, their first task being to peel them of bark, a process to arrest deterioration.

In the past other coppice products were very extensive. However a further coppice product supplied from Appleton Mill for river bank, pond and lake protection in the East Riding in recent years has been faggots and one metre poles. The faggots are a 2m by 0.5m barrel of tightly bound brushwood and are secured into the side of the water course by the poles and lashed. They can then be topped with river mud and since they are kept wet have an extended life, so extended that iron age and earlier faggot causeways have been excavated by diligent archaeologists on the Somerset levels and in East Anglia. It seems quite likely that Alexander used faggots, in part, in the construction of the causeway along the sandbar, when he took the then island of Tyre in 332 BC.

It is clear from making faggots and wattle fences how effective this combination of faggots and rough wattling between upright poles is for creating animal enclosures; once again the limited life of such an enclosure had the incidental advantage of providing good firewood. An understanding of all the many uses of coppice woodland makes it really quite unreasonable to suppose that woodland management was not widely practiced in settled communities in Iron Age times to produce what they wanted when they wanted it. As Oliver Rackham has pointed out, there are accounts of Roman woodland management, working out yields and labour requirements in Italy, while Columella mid 1st century AD, referred to the treatment of coppice woodland. Since Roman villas, organization, and military settlements in Britain were very thoroughly established it is reasonable to suppose that they extended Roman knowledge of woodland management to Britain to supplement indigenous practice. Even in the later more vulgar period of the Anglo Saxons woodlands were valuable property and woodland coppicing was practised for pole wood.

Timber, defined by the 1543 Statute of woods as 10" diameter and over 3' from the ground was always a different proposition, high value material for high status building as churches, manor houses, tithe barns. It was more difficult to cut and transport, the more so due to the use of primitive tools and transport. Timber required a more serious commitment of resources by the community. However by the 16th century with a wealthier society, a more effective state, and an urgent need for ship building, thought turned to measures of conservation and to new planting for timber. The Act of 1558 stated that timber shall not be felled to make coals for burning of iron which grew within 14 miles of the sea or a navigable river. In 1565 the Queen's Surveyor drew up a book of Surveys of all forests south of the Trent. His successor John Taverner did the same in 1584. They were still encouraging coppice management and they were also now encouraging the sowing of seeds. Early in the

17th century the practice of planting as opposed to the sowing of seeds began, and plantations were increasingly upon us.

There is no substitute for a visit to the Ryedale Folk Museum's iron age roundhouse. As you look at this structure one can visualize so much more clearly the spring woods, the coppices, the hags and the woodland practices that lay behind them. Add a prayer of thanksgiving that the chainsaw has succeeded the iron axe in the coppice wood shaft.

Notes:

¹ The Butser Ancient Farm Research Project

Editor's note: For readers interested in *The Butser Experiment* see:

Reynolds, P. J. (1979) *Iron-Age Farm: The Butser Experiment*. London: British Museum Publications.

Reynolds, P. J. (1980) *Butser Ancient Farm: Impressions*. Hampshire: Archaeological Research.

Reynolds, P. J. 'Butser Ancient Farm: The Nature of Experiment in Archaeology'
http://www.butser.org.uk/iafexp_hcc.html Page consulted 6th December 2007

An Archaeological Survey of Cawthorn Woods, Cawthorn, North Yorkshire

by Ed Dennison

Introduction

An archaeological survey of Cawthorn Woods was undertaken by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd in March-April 2004, on behalf of the North York Moors National Park Authority. The survey work comprised an initial walkover through the wood, followed by a sketch survey of the identified sites at a scale of 1:100. An



Figure: 1 The survey area showing location of identified sites.

additional site, comprising a small group of square barrows, was subject to a more detailed measured survey.

Cawthorn Woods covers some 25 hectares on East Moor between Cawthorn Roman Camps and High Lane, to the north of Pickering (NGR SE785895 centred) (Figure: 1); the public car park for the Roman Camps lies on its west side. The predominantly mixed broadleaved woodland is owned by the National Park Authority, and it contains oak, rowan, hazel and Scots and Austrian pine, with an area of coniferous plantation in the south-east corner. Most of the wood has re-generated from neglected moorland in the last 50 years or so - the western part of the wood is relatively open while the eastern part is more dense with brambles and other ground cover.

Three archaeological sites were already known within the wood, namely a possible square barrow, a supposed "Roman Outwork", and a possible enclosure. However, the full extent and significance of other earthworks in the wood had not been assessed, and it was suspected that several related to Second World War military activity. The survey work was required to provide background information and details of archaeological monuments prior to a programme of woodland management.

Archaeological and Historical Background

The "Roman Outwork" referred to above is depicted as an oval mound on the Ordnance Survey 1928 25" map (sheet 75/10), between the south-west corner of Fort A and the south-east corner of Camp C, while there is also a circular earthwork, c.18m in diameter, just to the south of this, named as "Tumulus" (Sites 33 and 24 respectively on Figure: 1). The "Roman Outwork" is named as a "Tumulus" on the Ordnance Survey 1854 6" map (sheet 75). Both these outlying monuments were also previously recorded by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England in 1976, as part of their wider survey of the Roman Camps (e.g. Welfare & Swan 1995, 137-142).

Although much of the antiquarian literature for the area deals with the Roman Camps, there are a small number of interesting references to these outlying earthworks. For example, a number of mounds are shown in this general area on Drake's depiction of the camps made in 1736, and he notes that there "are a number of tumuli of several sizes about ..." (Drake 1736, 36). Bulmer states in 1890 that "In the vicinity [of the camps] are several tumuli or sepulchral mounds. Many of these were opened some years ago by the later T M Kendall Esq., of Pickering" (www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS/NRY/Middleton/Middleton90.html). The North York Moors Historic Environment Record also has an entry relating to an undated excavation of an unidentified barrow "near the Cawthorn Camps" from which two skeletons, two food vessels, a flint javelin point and two scrapers were recovered (NYMHER 2203).

Cawthorn Woods lies on the edge of the area recently considered by English Heritage as part of their work on the Cawthorn Camp complex. In addition to identifying some additional sites within the wood, English Heritage also provide some details on the military activity in the area (e.g. Stone 1999, 15-17; Stone 2002, 80-85). The North York Moors was a major military training area during the Second World War, with tank, mortar and artillery ranges extending in a broad arc from Harwood Dale to

Blakely Topping. Evidence of this activity can be seen on historic aerial photographs, as well as in the surviving earthworks.

Survey Results

A total of 39 earthwork sites were identified by the survey (Figure: 1). Many of these comprised sets of vehicle tracks, generally c.2m wide, represented by a pair of shallow parallel linear depressions on average 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep (Sites 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16). Two distinct alignments were evident, running north-east/south-west and north/south, although there are others aligned more north-west/south-east. The longest alignment (Site 2) ran for a distance of some 700m on a slightly zig-zag route, changing direction every c.50m-60m (Plate: 1). Some of the tracks (e.g. Sites 3 and 11) were wider, between c.4.2m and 5.0m wide.

There is also a broad linear bank, now serving as a footpath, running on a general north-south alignment for a length of c.720m through the wood. On average it is c.2.5m-3m wide and 1.2m high, although there are several gaps or breaks, some of which may be recent. This bank currently serves to divide the coniferous woodland to the east from the predominantly birch woodland to the west, and this may perpetuate an original function as a boundary. However, in several places, the earthwork has an attached depression, resembling a broad, shallow hollow way which curves around towards the southern entrance of Camp A.



Plate: 1 Bren Gun Carrier tracks
(Site 2), looking south.

The remains of a number of small structures were also recognised in the wood, generally characterised by their regular plan forms and steepness or freshness of the earthworks. Three sites (Sites 19, 23 and 25) are very similar in size, shape and orientation, being sub-square earthworks with a probable entrance in the south-east corner (Figure: 2). Site 19 measures 12m long by 10m wide, and is defined on all sides by broad low banks up to 0.3m high. Other buildings might be represented by Sites 20, 26, 29 and 36, with Sites 20 and 29 having a similar semi-hexagonal plan form.

Three sub-circular craters were identified (Sites 17, 18 and 24), between 8m and 10m in diameter and up to 0.5m deep, with upcast around their edges. Several of these sites are visible as bomb craters on a 1945 aerial photograph (CUCAP K22, taken 2/8/1945). One other site (Site 32), provisionally identified as a small pond, might also be a former bomb crater. A number of small slit-trenches or foxholes were also noted (Sites 21, 22 and 38), typically 1.5m-2m long by 0.5m wide and 0.4m deep with vertical sides – it is likely that there are many more such features in the wood which were not identified by the survey because of the dense vegetation and undergrowth in

places. Several other small nebulous mounds and depressions (Sites 7, 10, 27, 28, 30, 31 and 35), of uncertain age and function, were also recorded by the survey, as well as an old spoil heap (Site 37).

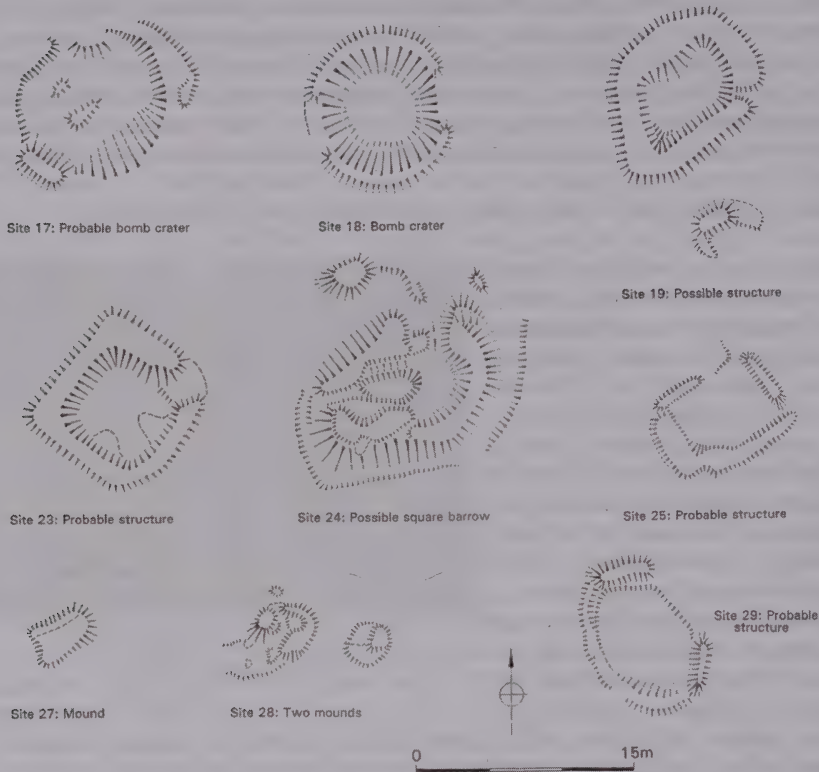


Figure: 2 Site specific surveys.

Site 24 (referred to earlier) had been previously identified as a disturbed Iron Age square barrow (Figure: 2). The surviving mound measures c.15m east/west by c.12m north/south and stands up to 1m high. It is surrounded by a shallow depression on two, possibly three, sides and there is a break in the north side of the mound. The interior of the mound contains a sub-oval depression, slightly stepped on the north side, which may represent a former excavation trench. Whilst the site is likely to represent a disturbed prehistoric barrow, it is also quite possible that the disturbance is associated with Second World War military activity, the mound perhaps being used as an observation platform.

The reputed "Roman outwork" (Site 33) is an hexagonal enclosure on the northern boundary of the survey area. Stone notes that an excavation trench through the site is visible on aerial photographs taken in 1925 (NMR SE7890/4-5, 8(1) & 11), and it may represent a "small rectangular building of laid turf" described by Richmond

when he was excavating the Roman Camps (Stone 2002, 53-54; Richmond 1926, 421). The earthwork measures c.17m long by c.14m wide, and is defined by broad banks standing up to c.1m high with an uneven but relatively level interior 0.5m deep. There appears to be an offset entrance in the north-east corner.

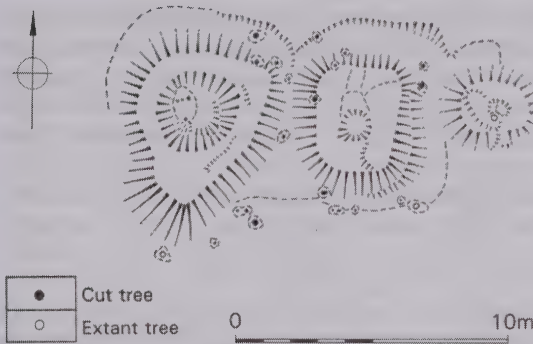


Figure: 3 Site 39, possible square barrows.

The survey also recorded a small group of square barrows in the southern central part of the wood (Site 39) (Figure: 3). The main part of the site is represented by three adjacent earthwork mounds, aligned east/west. The westernmost, and largest, feature is a sub-triangular mound, measuring 7.5m long (north/south), 6.0m wide (east/west) and c.1m high, with a shallow sub-circular central depression

and the suggestion of a shallow ditch or depression around the north side. The slightly smaller central mound is a very sharply defined sub-square mound, virtually c.5m square and 0.75m high, again with a shallow central depression and other very denuded earthworks in the upper surface (Plate: 2). There is also a shallow ditch or depression on the north side, which appears to cut that of the larger mound to the west; the ditch may continue around the east and south sides but is barely visible. The easternmost, and smallest mound, is a slightly angular oval earthwork, measuring 3.9m long (east-west) by 3.1m wide (north-south) and 0.5m high, again with a small central depression in the upper surface. Some 8m to the north of these features, there is a further sub-rectangular mound, 4.3m long by 3.0m wide and 0.5m high, with a possible small central depression.

These earthworks may indeed be prehistoric square barrows, and could form part of a larger group of barrows in this area, many of which are not clearly visible due to vegetation and/or later tree growth; possibly some of the other mounds in the general area (e.g. Sites 27, 28 and 31) might be additional barrows. The three main features might be interpreted as a family grouping, and the



Plate: 2 Group of square barrows (Site 39), looking north-west.

central mound appears to pre-date the western mound. The central depressions in all the mounds could be the result of antiquarian or earlier disturbance, and the disturbance in the western mound is the most prominent.

Discussion

It would seem likely that most of the identified sites within Cawthorn Woods result from Second World War military activity. The numerous lengths of c.2m wide tracks probably result from the movement of Bren Gun Carriers through the area; a standard Second World War Bren Gun Carrier was 3.75m long, 2.10m wide and 1.6m high, and it could reach speeds of up to 50kph (information from www.diggerhistory.info/pages-armour/allied/bren_carrier.htm). From the field evidence, it would appear that several phases of activity are represented, with Site 5 cutting Site 2 at one location. The slightly wider tracks (Sites 3 and 11) suggests a larger vehicle, possibly a tank.

The majority of the structural earthworks are also likely to be of Second World War origin, possibly buildings associated with military training, and it is noticeable that they all have the same general orientation. One of the probable buildings (Site 36) also appears to have been dug into an earlier bank (Site 1). All of these sites (Sites 19, 20, 23, 25, 26, 29 and 36) lie in the eastern half of the survey area, and many are in close proximity to the main Bren Gun Carrier alignment (Site 2). Were they part of a system to observe firing to the west from a moving Bren Gun Carrier? Two of the slit trenches or foxholes (Sites 21 and 22) were also adjacent to some of the buildings, and Stone has previously noted that Site 33 (the supposed "Roman outwork") is of a comparable size and shape to a possible Nissen hut base located immediately to the south of Fort D (Stone 2002, 83), although the earthwork is known from map information to pre-date the Second World War activity. Vyner has also suggested that there is a similarity between this site and the watch-tower sites over Stainmore (Blaise Vyner, *pers. comm.*; Vyner 2001, 98-111), which would make quite good sense in terms of monitoring activity in the Vale of Pickering.

Site 24, a large earthwork measuring c.15m by c.12m and up to 1m high, has previously been interpreted as a disturbed Iron Age square barrow. However, the dimensions of the mound lie at the upper end of the usual range of sizes for such sites, and it does look rather large compared to other local and regional examples. Perhaps the site was disturbed as part of the Second World War military training activity, possibly to be used as an observation platform.

The three smaller mounds making up Site 39 have also been interpreted as disturbed square barrows, and there may be another more isolated example just to the north. Although there are too few mounds for this site to technically be termed a cemetery, which is usually defined as being ten barrows or more, these small family groupings are relatively common, and are characterised by conjoined or overlapping barrows indicating a long-used burial site (Dennison 1989). Nevertheless, all three mounds show some degree of later disturbance and their earthworks are very sharp and regular, especially the central one, compared to other surviving examples (for example on the Beverley Westwood or at Scarborough in East Yorkshire; Stead 1975). Although the latter might be due to fact that the mounds were protected to a certain extent by the woodland, it is possible that the earthworks might have been

remodelled after previous disturbance, and they may even not be square barrows at all but date from a more recent period of activity. Only detailed excavation would provide the answers.

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Reviews

The River Derwent in North Yorkshire

by John D. Farquhar

Publisher: Serendipity, 2006.

ISBN: 1-84394-164-3

Price: £9.95 (Paperback)

This book is surely a labour of love. John Farquhar relates how he acquired a lifelong affection for the countryside as a teenage schoolboy in the 1930s, walking and cycling in the hinterland of his native Scarborough. There amid some of Britain's most beautiful landscapes he discovered the Yorkshire Derwent and became interested by its long and unusual course.

After a career in forestry in many parts of the world, and then as an adviser to the Food and Agriculture Organisation for the UN, Dr Farquhar came back to Yorkshire in retirement, and settled in Ampleforth. He resumed exploration of the Yorkshire countryside, and became an active member of the Campaign to Protect Rural England and of the North Yorkshire Moors Association. He came to recognise the Derwent as "a most peculiar river", exhibiting what an earlier writer had described as "a curious example of erratic conduct".

In *The River Derwent in North Yorkshire* we are taken on a journey of exploration, following the Derwent and its tributaries throughout a catchment which encompasses most of north-east Yorkshire. The author's informal style suggests the voice of a companion who guides us with splendidly detailed directions (walking whenever possible), and helps us to understand how nature and human industry have shaped the landscapes and settlements around us. Between excursions we pause to read short essays on local geology, archaeology, historical events and personalities. The author says he hoped these "digressions" will not bore us: in fact they make for informative and enjoyable armchair browsing. Our only disappointment is to find some of the monochrome photographs poorly reproduced, doing no justice to the scenes illustrated.

From its source on Fylingdales Moor the Derwent flows for some 70 devious miles to join the Ouse at Barmby-on-the-Marsh near Howden; its water must travel another 50 miles to actually reach the sea. There is sometimes uncertainty as to which of a river's headstreams should be named as the 'true source', so we consider some choices as we explore Fylingdales Moor. The Ordnance Survey names as Derwent Head the stream rising near Lilla Cross on the moor's highest ridge; our guide shows us the way to a more remote source further north: a stream flowing eastward before it turns south only 3 miles from the sea at Robin Hood's Bay. Near Hackness, 10 miles from the source, we are shown the Sea Cut which takes Derwent flood water directly to the sea at Scarborough - an important part of the plan promoted by 19th century 'Improving Landlords' for draining wetlands in the Vale of Pickering. The author's essay on the Devensian Glaciation explains how the geography of the river's peculiar course made possible this unusual arrangement. In contrast, traditional management downstream at Wheldrake and Bubwith permits seasonal flooding in water meadows ("ings"); here the "old ways" are now maintained in the interest of biodiversity.

Dr Farquhar finds that landscapes familiar to him 70 years ago are still much the same, “thanks to the efforts of a lot of devoted people”; he is remarkably hopeful that current conservation policies will continue helping us to protect them from unsuitable development. But his account of the protracted and costly legal proceedings over navigation rights in the post-war years shows that the Derwent itself has been a resource subject to serious conflicts of interest. Judgements were twice reversed on appeal; final settlement in favour of conservation came last in the House of Lords (!). The river is now a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest, and Wheldrake Ings are recognised in the Ramsar Convention as of international importance for migrating birds.

Near the end of our journey of exploration the tall tower of Howden Minster is a landmark; our guide regrets that the Derwent changed its course away from the ancient town. In view across the Ouse from Barmby-on-the-Marsh, Drax power station is a formidable presence as we make use of the car park and picnic tables next to the tidal barrage. Here the Derwent’s “erratic conduct” comes to an end, much of its water now abstracted for the benefit of Hull, Leeds, and Sheffield.

In a final “Envoi” Dr Farquhar quotes a 16th century sonnet celebrating the completion of a happy and successful journey; he is thankful to have found so much of our countryside protected from the worst of commercial exploitation, while regretting the devastation seen elsewhere in the course of his professional life.

A book to be appreciated for conveying the sense of place and the pleasure of unhurried exploration.

Basil Wharton

John Henry's Walk: A Journey from Clapham to Scarborough in 1875

by Alan Plowright

Publisher: Moorfield Press, 2006.

ISBN: 09530 1198 4

Price: £10.50 (Paperback)

“When the man (the pub bore in the Black Swan in Pickering) learned of our eight-day hike he was astonished that anyone should wish to walk such a distance. ‘Yer want yer heads lookin’ at, tramping round t’country. Ave yer nowt better to do?’ We assured him that our journey had been very enjoyable up to now and it was made more pleasurable by meeting such people as him. The man seemed pleased at the flattery. ‘Is that ri’t’e’ he replied, ‘I can tell yer a whole lot more, if yer’ve a mind to listen.’ ”

This book is an account of a walk made by John Henry Wilkinson and his cousin Richard from Clapham near Settle to Scarborough in eight days at the end of July 1875 when Wilkinson was 24 years old. He was a native of Leeds, living most of his life at Horsforth, and kept diaries and notes of many walking holidays throughout Yorkshire during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

It is not clear, however, who has written most of the text. The acknowledgement states “This book could not have been written without the invaluable assistance of David Allen and Brenda Hiscock, grandchildren of John Henry Wilkinson. It is they who interpreted John Henry’s diary notes concerning the walk and produced a type-written version of them.” Presumably the text has then been further changed by the author. Thus it is difficult to tell how much of the light tone, reminiscent of *Three Men in a Boat* (1889) is due to John Henry and how much to the author. The text includes much history of the places through which they walk. Legendary tales are retold and there are many quotations, always popular in Victorian times, from the Ballads and Milton, Gray, Wordsworth etc. Lesser known authors are also quoted such as O’Keeffe, the Irish dramatist, of whom the Oxford Companion to English literature comments “Hazlitt described him as ‘the English Molière’, but the compliment seems excessive.”

Like most young men John Henry and his cousin are interested in girls and beer. At Aysgarth Falls they sidle up to three charming young ladies with whom they engage in conversation and trace the route of their walk on the Ordnance Survey maps. “At Wykeham we ‘liquored up’ for about the thirty-seventh and last time at a wayside inn. Was it really that many? We must have been a boon to the local breweries. Anyway, you can’t beat good Yorkshire ale.” As usual, while having their drink they chat to the landlord’s sixteen year old daughter, a laughing sweet girl. It is interesting to note, that of the many named local pubs, all seem to be still in existence except for the Golden Lion in Helmsley. Here they ate tea, bread and butter and six mutton chops, which appears to have been the standard meal at an inn.

The book is copiously illustrated with old photographs from many sources and is a light and enjoyable read.

Terence Boyle

The People's Laird:

A Life of Robert Bontine Cunninghame Graham 1852 - 1936

by Anne Taylor

Publisher: The Tobias Press, 2005.

ISBN: 0-9549635-0-4

Price: £15.00 (Paperback)

Few modern readers are probably aware that the first socialist MP in the British House of Commons was neither a miner nor a docker, or even a working man at all. That distinction belongs to Robert Cunninghame Graham, a Quixotic aristocratic adventurer who in 1886 became MP for NW Lanarkshire, advocating what he called 'pure unmitigated socialism' – some six years before another Scot, the more famous Keir Hardie, entered parliament. But as Anne Taylor's new biography recounts, this was only one of Graham's many claims to fame. From the Scottish lowlands to the South American pampas, via Morocco, Iceland, the literary salons of London, and a spell in Pentonville prison, Graham's life reads like something out of a 19th century novel. Indeed, he not only wrote some thirty works of adventure and travel fiction himself, he was also caricatured by Shaw, Galsworthy, Wells, and most famously in Joseph Conrad's *Nostromo*. Taylor, the distinguished author of studies of the pioneering socialist and women's campaigner Annie Besant, of the writer and mystic Laurence Oliphant and of Robert Owen's utopian community in Indiana, is not the first to tell the story of this remarkable man. There have been several lives of Graham in Spanish and in English, there are numerous editions of Graham's works, and in the recent new *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* Cedric Watts has provided a comprehensive thumbnail sketch of this strange maverick whose words and deeds illuminated English and Scottish political life in the late Victorian and Edwardian era. However, Taylor has given us a fresh and expertly researched new narrative of Graham's life and times, and what it lacks in analysis it more than compensates for by letting the facts speak for themselves.

Graham was descended from ancient Scottish nobility, although there was Spanish blood on his mother's side – perhaps the source of his flamboyant looks: a wild mane and flowing beard, and somewhat dapper and dandyish style of dress. As eldest son, in time, he came into the inheritance of a rambling and debt-laden estate on Lake Menteith near Stirling. But as a young man, it was the parlous state of his family finances and an instinctive wanderlust, which drove him to seek his fortune in South America, joining the gauchos and earning a reputation as a fine horseman. After Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay he travelled in Morocco and Iceland, before returning to Britain in his mid-twenties to take up his place as head of the family following his father's incapacitation and eventual death. Graham married what the world took to be a Spanish beauty, although as Taylor reveals with some meticulous detective work, she turns out to have hailed from Yorkshire. He began to take a more serious interest in the social questions of the day. What turned this earnest and well-heeled adventurer into a social reformer? There was undoubtedly the natural paternalism of a young Scottish laird, albeit an impoverished one. But Taylor also suggests that Graham's social conscience was inspired by a romanticised view of the past – or at least of civilisations such as the South American, North African and Icelandic - which seemed to be unblemished by modern commerce and industrialism. Graham became a devotee of William Morris' studies of the bardic legends of

Iceland, and from there it was but a short step to investing the poor and down-trodden of modern Britain with some of the noble characteristics of the peoples of lost arcadias.

Graham was adopted as a Liberal candidate at the 1885 election. He was unsuccessful at this first attempt but was elected the following year and so began the most notorious six years of his political life. His maiden speech in Parliament attacked the royal family, he championed the Scottish crofters, Coatbridge miners and ironworkers, the chainmakers of Cradley Heath, the London dockers, supported the campaign for the eight-hour day, opposed the British empire, joined the Marxist Second International, and quickly began to defy the Liberal party whip. As Taylor wryly observes, there was 'more dash than calculation' about Graham's political positioning, but he did prove a useful parliamentary ally for the growing socialist movement outside Westminster. In 1887 Graham met William Morris for the first time and they appeared at a public meeting together. In November of that year Graham was the only MP to attend the proscribed demonstrations in central London over unemployment, for which he was arrested. 'Bloody Sunday' - where the Metropolitan Police were accused of using Tsarist methods to put down the protesters - thrust Graham into the national spotlight. He and John Burns were arrested and found guilty of unlawful assembly. Graham's defence team included future Liberal heavyweights Herbert Asquith and Richard Haldane, but to no avail, for Graham spent six weeks in prison - one of the few occasions in the 19th century when a serving non-Irish MP was incarcerated. If the Liberal party had been unsure of his allegiance before 'Bloody Sunday', now his estrangement was complete, and he marked his release from Pentonville with a bitter denunciation of Gladstone and Co. Graham switched his attentions to the labour movement in Scotland and supported Keir Hardie in his attempt to win the Mid-Lanarkshire seat. Increasingly at odds with his constituents over issues such as the Parnell divorce, and spending more time in the company of the Social Democratic Federation, Graham did not stand for re-election in NW Lanarkshire in 1892, but instead for Calamachie, where he polled poorly. Taylor documents all of this hectic and complex period of Graham's career with great skill, and brings to life the exciting early years of British socialism very effectively. One is left wondering how much impact Graham actually had: would the fortunes of the SDF, the Socialist League and the London dockers and Scottish crofters been better or worse without him? Certainly, for all his unpredictability, Graham was an important parliamentary figurehead for radicalism in the late 1880s, especially over practical legislative issues such as working conditions and statutory working hours, but no politician was he, and he seems to have managed to fall out with as many fellow-travellers as he won over.

Somehow, the remainder of Graham's life and indeed the last third of Taylor's book pale in their interest compared to the wonderful evocation of the dramatic events of the 1880s. Graham and his wife Gabriella turned their considerable energies and talents to their writing, and Graham became one of the star-turns in Edward Garnett's bevy of notable authors at T. Fisher Unwin. There were further exotic adventures - Taylor carefully reconstructs Graham's role in the British annexation of part of coastal Africa - and later attempts to resuscitate a political career after the First World War. When the Scottish 'home rule' movement revived in the 1920s, Graham was its distinguished elder statesman, and now in his mid-70s, became President of the National Party of Scotland. Even then he was never far from controversy and his

leadership became tainted with misplaced accusations of sympathy for Mussolini-style fascism. Graham lived long enough to be able to read his own biographies. A few appeared in the 1930s, although by then the febrile late Victorian political world of which he was part had long passed away. On his travels once more, Graham died in Buenos Aires in 1936.

Anne Taylor has produced an elegant and full study of a handsome adventurer who lived a full life. It is often difficult for a biographer to detach themselves and offer a more general verdict on their subject's importance. Taylor's style is very much to let the narrative tell its own story, and she thus concludes simply with the observation that Graham's temper and personality were not well-suited to the arts and craft of politics. That is undoubtedly so, but perhaps also Graham was a man out of his time. He clung to a style of patrician leadership and an arcadian social vision just when the labour movement was turning for its heroes to authentic products of the working class such as John Burns and Keir Hardie. Like those other gentlemanly radicals of the age, William Morris and Henry Hyndman, Robert Cunninghame Graham was looking backwards while the real world was moving on.

Professor Miles Taylor,
Department of History, University of York

Lockton – People and Places

by Ruth Strong

Publisher: Blacksmith House Publications, 2005.

ISBN: 0-9536031-2-1

Price: £8.95 (Paperback)

Lockton is a small, compact village north-east of Pickering and south of the Hole of Horcum, in the heart of the North Yorkshire Moors. Ruth Strong has produced earlier books about this village – *Lockton remembered* and *Methodism in a Moorland Village*. This book is a sequel which concentrates further on the people who once lived there and their life and activities.

My own interest in this book stems from having the privilege to know the late Mrs. Mary Ellen Boyes (née Sedman) who was born in Lockton, and then as a young child moved to Welbury where she remained for the rest of her life. She spent a lot of time revisiting Lockton throughout her life. She was a great character with a gift for writing and her memories were faithfully recorded in numerous notebooks, all written in longhand. These are valuable historical documents and her family kindly agreed that their contents could be published. This new book by Ruth Strong opens with some more of Mary Ellen's recollections about the village around the early 20th century, which had not previously been published (in *Welbury, a local history*, Garden House Publishing 2000).

Lockton remains a beautiful and relatively unspoilt village, where it is still easy to imagine what life must have once been like in and around the old buildings and outbuildings, most of which are still there and in use. There were close connections with Levisham, the adjacent village across the valley. The very hilly walk from Lockton to Levisham station provided an important connection with the outside world and must have been daunting except to the most hardy.

Lockton - People and Places recalls further stories of the village, beautifully brought to life in the form of recollections of existing inhabitants, a good range of old photographs and accompanying maps. Much thorough research from a wide variety of sources (local record offices, archive societies and church archives etc) has yielded detailed information in a very readable format. The concomitant changes of style help maintain the reader's interest. This book would be of interest not just to those who know Lockton, but also to those interested in the past lives and times of other Yorkshire villages.

The description of the Lodge of the Ancient Order of Shepherds (formed to provide members with insurance against sickness) with its annual feast (which eventually extended to a whole weekend) make fascinating reading. Other old customs, such as the Hare Supper were held until 1908 and relate to the right to shoot game on Lockton High Moor and Saltersgate Moor. Lockton's strong choral tradition, Friendly Societies and social events are well described along with schooling, church and chapel going and the role of the inns.

The strong community spirit and happiness of the residents, despite their generally hard lives, is clearly portrayed. This is a book which provides both good bedtime reading and also much information and food for thought for the more scholarly reader

(e.g. the history behind field and road names). Each chapter is accompanied by a list of references which are helpfully categorized into their origins from primary sources, primary printed sources and secondary sources. Those interested in particular topics are assisted by a comprehensive index. The only adverse comment I have rests with the proof-readers who failed to notice some obvious spelling mistakes. This is a pity in an otherwise really excellent publication.

Dr Angela Ovenston

Recent Publications

A Fair Gate to Oblivion: A Celebration of the English Epitaph

by J. P. G. Taylor

Publisher: Oblong, 2007.

ISBN: 978-0-9536574-9-0

Price £18.00 plus £2.00 P & P (Paperback)

Obtainable from: J. P. G. Taylor, 24 Holmes Drive, Riccall, York YO19 6RT

Almost 400 examples of the *English Epitaph* are researched in this publication. The author explores the changing language of the epitaph and how it reflects changes in religious beliefs and social attitudes of its composers. Memorials researched include: Sheriff Hutton, Coxwold, Nunnington, Dalby, Easingwold, Kirkgate, Kirkbymoorside, Malton, Castle Howard and Little Ouseburn.

To be reviewed in the next issue.

NOTES

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Recent Publications

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Location - People and Places recalls further stories of the village, beautifully brought to life in the form of a collection of photographs and documents. Much thought has been given to the village's history and its people. The book is a celebration of the English Heritage 100th Anniversary.

The description of the history of the Ancient Order of Shepherds (formed to provide members with a sense of community and to help them to live a better life) is a good example of the village's history. The book is a celebration of the English Heritage 100th Anniversary.

The strong community spirit and happiness of the residents, despite their generally hard lives, is clearly portrayed. This is a book which provides both good reading and much information and is a book which is well worth a read.

NOTES
